April 2008 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

Mini GOKULAM

SUMMER FUN!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

PARLE
Ram and Shyam
MMM...POPPINS!
Game For Adventure
IN A WORLD FAR FAR AWAY, THE EVIL LORD STANDS IN THE GRIM LONELY OUTDOORS WITH HIS 3 ARMED GUARDS, FACING THE PORTAL.THEIR UGLINESS IS UNBEARABLE.
ONCE THIS PORTAL OPENS TO EARTH, MY FINE SOLDIERS WILL TEACH THE EARTHLINGS THE MEANING OF DESTRUCTION.
MEANWHILE AT THE GAMEZONE MALL, RAM AND SHYAM ARE PLAYING ON GAMING MACHINES WITH THEIR FRIENDS RAHUL AND SEEMA.
GAMEZONE
YAH, TAKE THAT EVIL DREADLORD KAZAA.
MAN THIS GAME'S SO LIFELIKE IT'S GREAT. IF IT WERE REAL, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.
SUDDENLY, SCREAMING BURSTS OUT AROUND THEM. THEY SEE THAT ONE OF THE GAMING MACHINES HAS OPENED INTO A PORTAL, DISCHARGING SEVERAL VILLAINOUS CREATURES
BUT IT IS THE DREAD-LORD KAZAA AND HIS EVIL HENCHMEN.
IT ISN'T...IT CAN'T BE...
NOW NO ONE CAN STOP ME FROM CONQUERING THIS WORLD.
BUT HOW? WE DON'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS.
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM.
SHYAM AND RAM LOCK EYES. THEY REMOVE THEIR DECOLOURISER, THE ALIEN GADGET THAT ZAPS OUT ANY VILLAIN'S POWER.
TO CHARGE ITS POWER, LETS HAVE A POPPINS EACH.
NOW POWERED (A COLOURFUL GLOW SURROUNDING THEIR BODIES), RAM JUMPS OUT WITH THE DECOLOURISER AND ZAPS THE COLOUR AND ENERGY FROM THOSE CREATURES.
MEANWHILE SHYAM, RAHUL & SEEMA COVER OTHER PEOPLE WITH THEIR GLOW TO PROTECT THEM.
SOON THE EVIL DREAD LORD IS CAPTURED, AS ARE HIS HENCHMEN.
THAT'S WHY POPPINS AND US MAKE A GREAT TEAM.
PARLE
POPPINS

GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children

Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

April 2008 Vol.XX, No.9

CONTENTS

KALKI GROUP
HOUSE of QUALITY

Cover Design: PILLAI

Editorial	- 2
Travel	- 3
Picture Story	- 4
A Revolutionary Car!	- 6
Picture Story (Tenali Raman)	- 8
Yellow Magic	- 14
The Pain of Saying Goodbye	- 16
Colour Burst	- 18
Cottage No.13	- 20
Dragon Rider (Book Review)	- 25
Hello Doctor	- 26
Poet's Corner	- 28
Zerocks' Warning	- 30
Newton	- 34
Jokes	- 35
Summer Fun (Mini Gokulam)	- 37
Gullu's Crossword	- 45
Hip-hip-Hurray!	- 47
How Important is Water	- 49
View Point	- 50
Budding Chef	- 53
First Review of Tales of Beedle The Bard	- 54
Travel	- 57
A Special Meteorite	- 60
Quills to Ball-Points	- 64
Penpals	- 66
Grandmaworm	- 68
A Golden Cage (Picture Story)	- 71
News Digest	- 74
Letter Box	- 76
In the Wild	- 78
Summers - Then and Now!	- 79
Billu	- 80

KALKI GROUP
HOUSE of QUALITY

GOKULAM

printed and published at
Bharathan Press
on behalf of
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032

printer and publisher :
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other information :
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subscription rates :
inland : annual
Rs.120/-
overseas : annual
26 US Dollars

THE Magazine for Children

Dear Reader,

Cinema has always been a great influence on the young. My school days were no exception. I remember a final year student performing a dance number from a famous movie of that period. Thunderous applause followed. It was the annual day and the audience, both students and their parents, went gaga over the song and dance number. Needless to say the performer received the first prize.

Times have changed. Man has landed on the moon; computers and mobile phones have revolutionised communication and satellites have shrunk the world. But the influence of cinema over the young remains the same. Be it schools or colleges, Annual day or Culturals, we find students

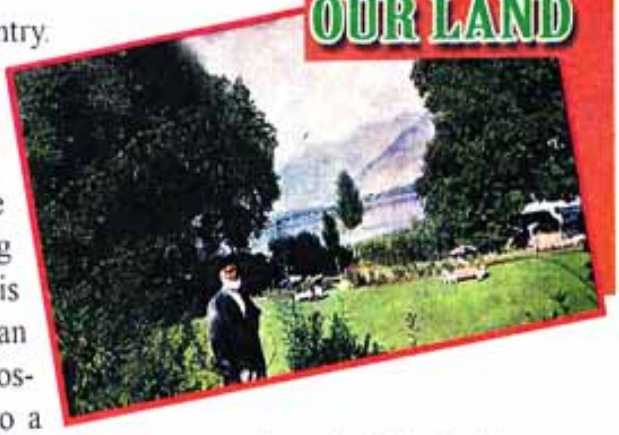
Culture and 'Culturals'!

going on stage to imitate some top film star and his/her dance number.

While there is nothing wrong in enjoying a movie, let us not be fooled into accepting the song and dance routine in it as part of our culture. Our culture is safe in our traditional art forms, like classical music and other performing arts; the divine beauty of temple sculptures; rich literature and so on. Culture is also our way of life. A cultured person need not necessarily be an expert in our traditional art forms, but he should surely be interested in them. He is also well behaved and dressed. Above all he loves humanity. Thousands of years ago a Tamil poet wrote: "யாதும் ஊரே; யாவரும் கேளிர்," which means, "Any town is my home town and all humanity my kin!"

This is the essence of our culture. - Editor

OUR LAND



Oman is a very clean country. The capital of Oman is Muscat. We live in a place called Sohar, which is 250 kms away from Muscat. In Sohar are the Wadi Hibi hills. When coming from Muscat to Sohar, there is the Sawadi beach. There is an Ostrich Park where we can see ostriches in plenty. There is also a huge garden called Naseem garden. There are many shops in Sohar. In Muscat there are many super markets and hyper markets. Itti beach and Khanthab beach are there too!

Beautiful OMAN

There is a very big park in Muscat called Quram park. There is also a big resort called Barr al jizza in Muscat. Salalah is in the southern part of Oman. In Salalah the weather is very cool, like Kerala. It is also very beautiful. It has streams, ponds, farms, gardens etc.

- Mira Sankar, Std.IV,
Indian School Sohar, Muscat,
Sultanate of Oman.

On the shore of a lake lived two crows-Blackie and Perky. Blackie caught a snail. Holding it in his beak, he roosted on a tree.

Blackie tried to crack the shell of the snail with his beak. But it was hard and though he tried again and again, he could not succeed.

"What are you up to?" asked Perky, who flew up to join.

"I want to eat this snail, but can't crack the shell" said Blackie.

"Drop it down on that rock from a height" - Perky gave him an idea.

"Thanks! That's a great suggestion" said Blackie and flew off to the rock.

Pictures : Mahesh

And just as Perky said, Blackie dropped the snail from a height, but before the creature could land, Perky flew in and snapped up Blackie's prey!

"You cheat!" An angry and disappointed, Blackie yelled!

"I didn't cheat... I was just clever" chuckled Perky. "A bit too clever for you!"

And as the boastful Perky bragged, the snail slipped out from his beak and descended... An eagle, watching with keen eyes grabbed the snail mid-air!

Perky valiantly fought back to get the snail, but only got clawed by the eagle.

As Perky writhed in pain, Blackie flew up to console him. "If you cheat, you are bound to be cheated... my friend."

CLEVER!

Story :
S. Sivapriya
Std.VII,
Sarada Matric School, Senji.

It is ironical yet true, that through the ages, most new discoveries have been frowned upon and most new inventions, ridiculed.

Europe's largest science and technology solutions company has published plans to develop the world's environmentally clean sports car, powered by fuel cell that converts, hydrogen into electricity. The new vehicle known as LIFE car, will be ultra quiet and it's exhaust systems will only produce water vapour. Moreover, the only waste product from the vehicle will be water. It promises a clean vehicle, combined with good per-

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CAR!

formance and stylish looks. Definitely the car's power system will be incredibly efficient. LIFE car is about to catch the first big wave in the energy revolution which is set to transform the motoring industry.

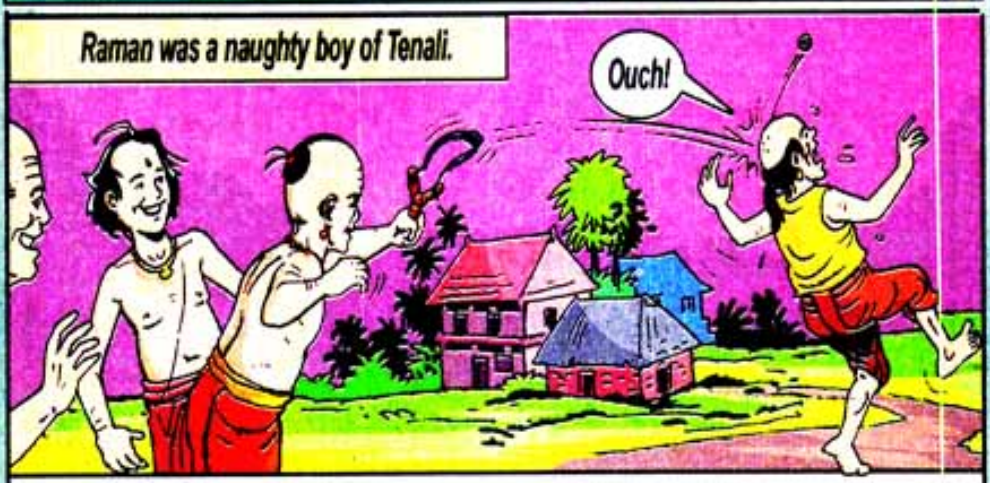
A sports car that is beautiful, brilliant to drive but pollution- free is the latest trend and need of the hour.

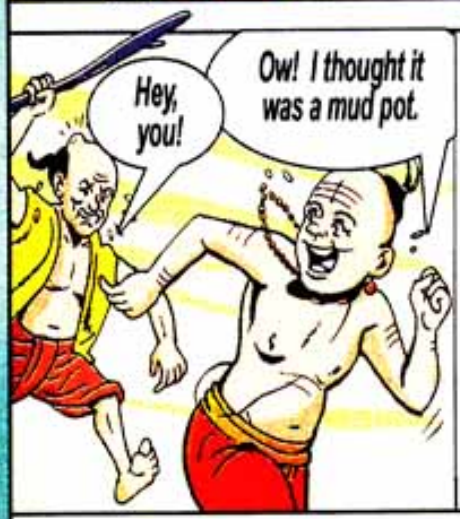
Source: Internet

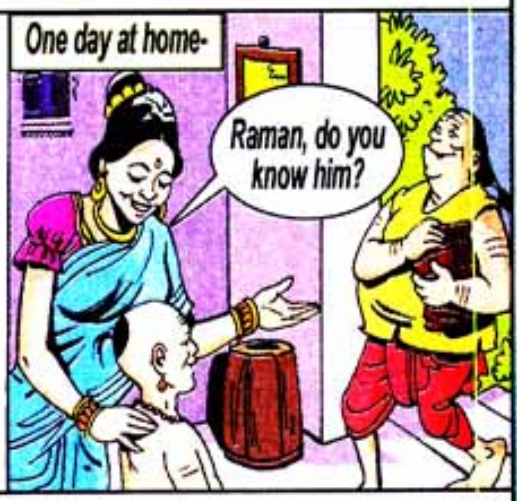
- Sonali Padhy, Std.IX,
D.A.V. Public School,
C.S.Pur, Bhubaneswar

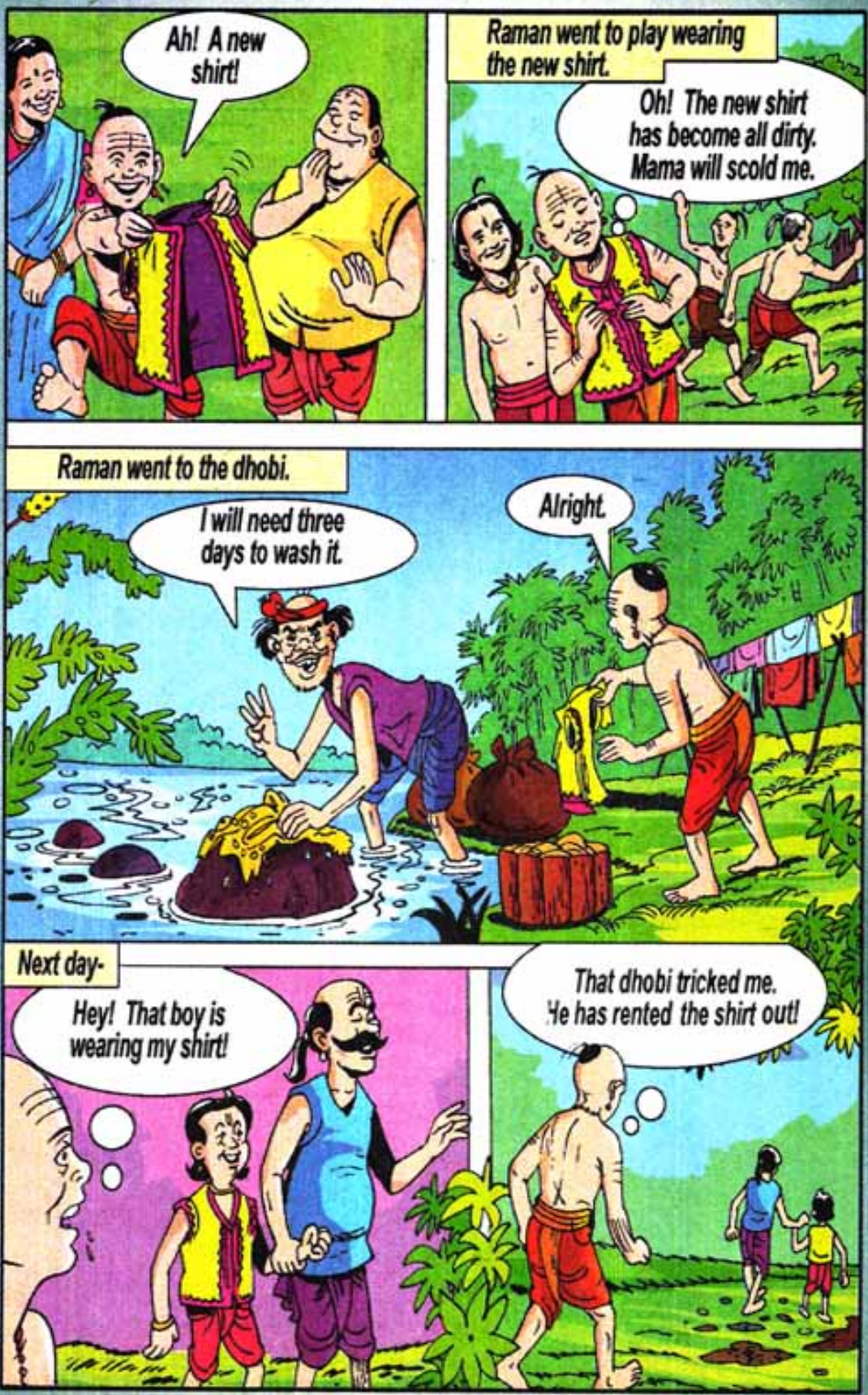
TENALI RAMAN

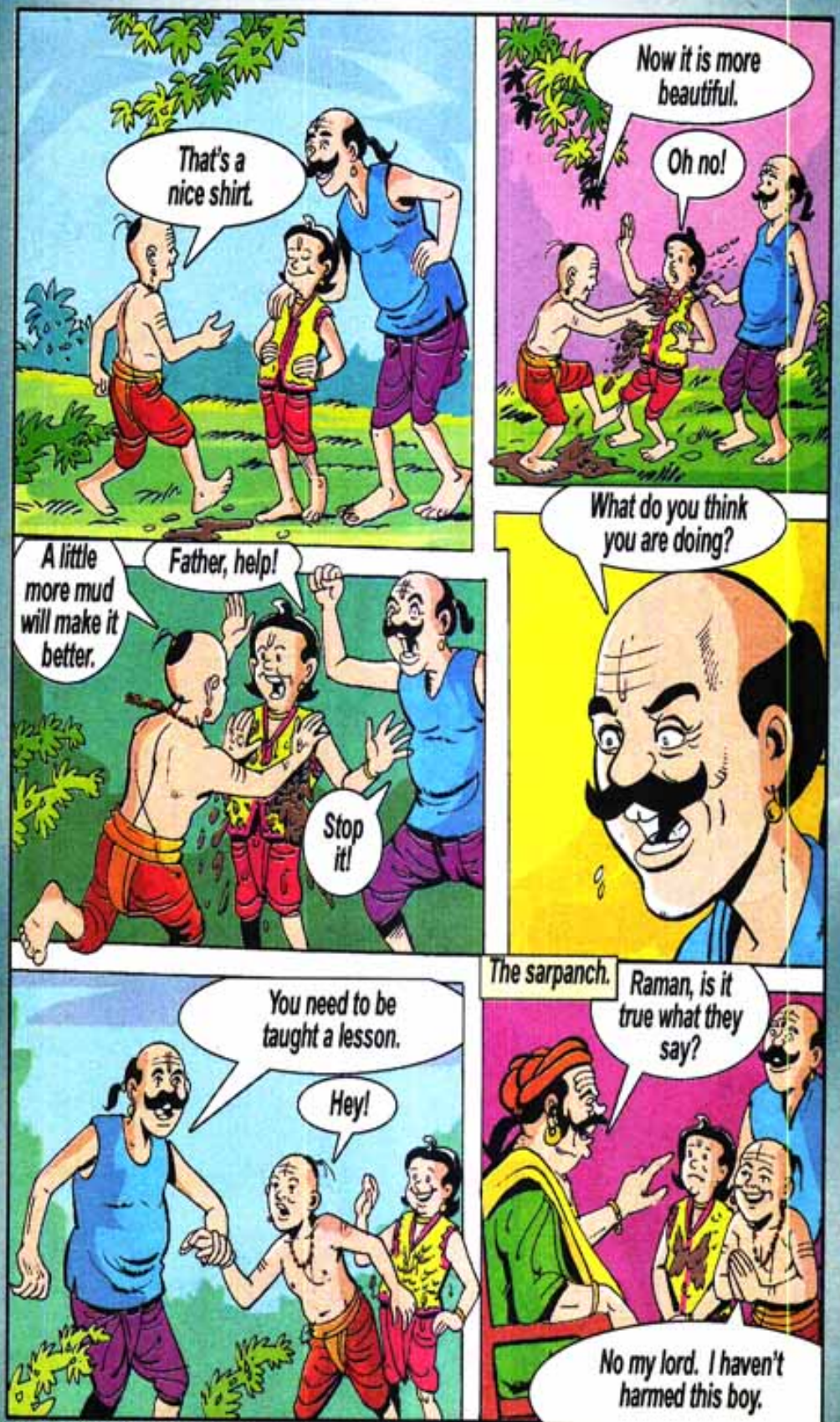
Jingle Bell Feature

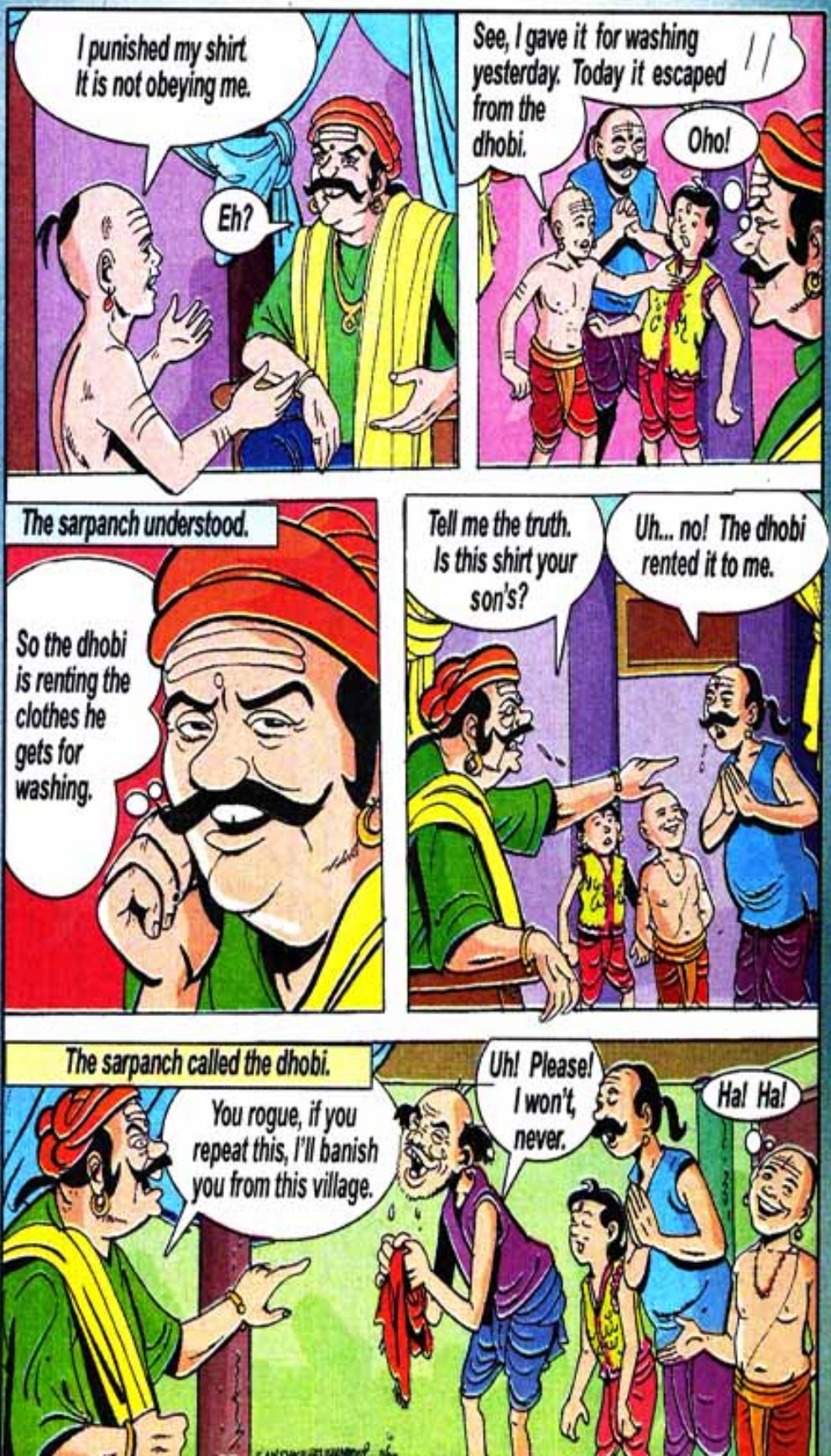







Ah! A new shirt!
Raman went to play wearing the new shirt.
Oh! The new shirt has become all dirty. Mama will scold me.
Raman went to the dhobi.
I will need three days to wash it.
Alright.
Next day-
Hey! That boy is wearing my shirt!
That dhobi tricked me. He has rented the shirt out!


That's a nice shirt.
Now it is more beautiful.
Oh no!
A little more mud will make it better.
Father, help!
Stop it!
What do you think you are doing?
You need to be taught a lesson.
Hey!
The sarpanch.
Raman, is it true what they say?
No my lord. I haven't harmed this boy.


I punished my shirt. It is not obeying me.
Eh?
See, I gave it for washing yesterday. Today it escaped from the dhobi.
Oho!
The sarpanch understood.
So the dhobi is renting the clothes he gets for washing.
Tell me the truth. Is this shirt your son's?
Uh... no! The dhobi rented it to me.
The sarpanch called the dhobi.
You rogue, if you repeat this, I'll banish you from this village.
Uh! Please! I won't, never.
Ha! Ha!

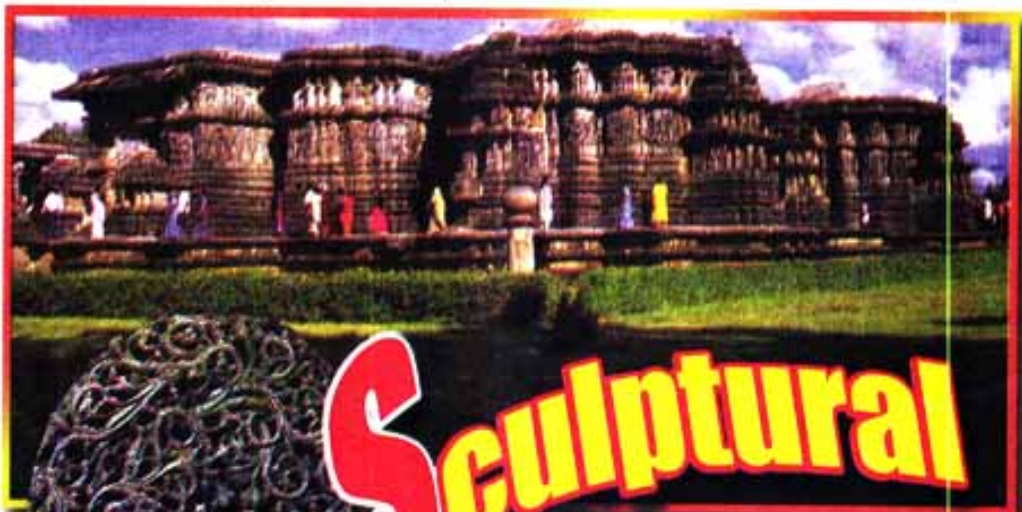
We often travel from Mangalore to Bengalooru during holidays as my father stays in Bengalooru. We usually travel by the Shiradi ghat route to reach there. But this time, as Shiradi ghat route was closed due to the road repair, we went by Charmadi ghat.

My father's friend told us that Belur, a historical place is just 100 km away from Charmadi ghat. So we decided to visit Belur.

Belur is a beautiful place. It is famous for the Chennakeshava temple. Queen Shantala, wife of king Vishnuvardhan built this temple. Lord Chennakeshava is the main deity in this spacious temple.

Many tourists visit this temple to see the sculptural and architectural wonder. Each stone pillar has different carvings. A chariot-like structure has also been carved from stone. The Hoysala royal emblem and many relics found here are of historic importance.

• Hoysaleshwara Temple, Halebeedu



Sculptural

• Natyarani Shakuntala, Belur.

Belur is always mentioned along with another historical place - Halebeedu. Halebeedu is 16 km away from Belur. Hence our next destination was Halebeedu.

Moving towards Halebeedu we had to cross many small villages. Halebeedu is also a beautiful place. The temple in Halebeedu houses Lord Hoysaleshwara. Khetu Malla, King Vishnuvardhan's min-

• Wall Carvings, Halebeedu

ister, built this temple, in the name of King Vishnuvardhan. It was built in the year 1121.

The original name of Halebeedu was Dwarasamudhra. When King Allaudin's Senadhipati (head of his army) Mallikafur attacked Dwarasamudhra (now Halebeedu) in the year 1310 the temple was partially destroyed. This can be made out by looking at some of the idols with broken hands, legs, nose, ears etc. Halebeedu speaks of the aesthetic sense and devotional attitude of the people of its time.

My visit to both the places - Belur and Halebeedu was memorable. It took me back to the age of Kings and Queens and also helped me to imagine the splendour of those days. The carved pillars speak many stories of the past golden era in silence. I wished I could communicate with those pillars and share their views of the present and the past!

- Shreyanka Shetty,
Std.VI,
Sharada Vidyalaya,
Mangalore

Splendour!

• Chennakeshava Temple, Belur

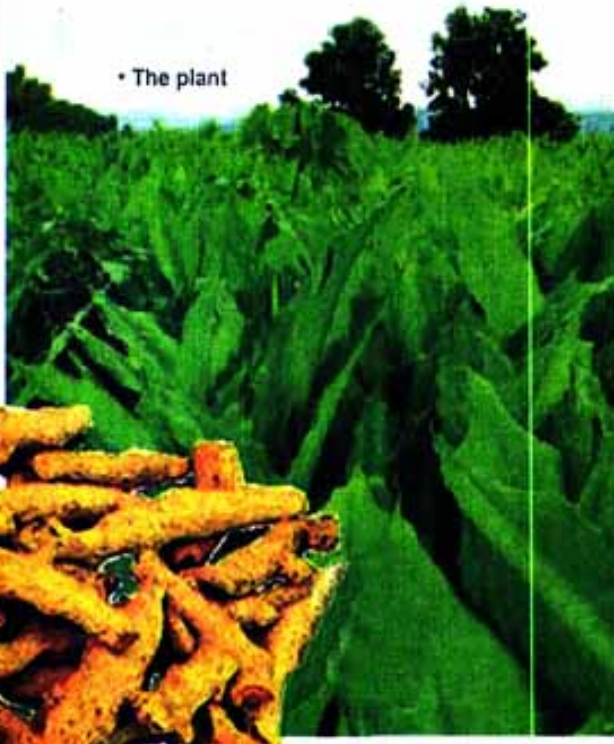
Yellow

Turmeric, also known as Haldi, is a spice widely used in Indian cooking. It gives a distinct flavour and yellow colour when added to food. It has been used by Indian Medical Practitioners of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha for healing. It is also used in cosmetic preparations.

Medicinal uses:

Turmeric is a blood purifier and antiseptic. It is loaded with antioxidants and thus its regular intake protects us from jaundice, cancer, tumors, Alzheimer's disease etc.

• Medicine



• The plant

• Dried turmeric

Intestinal Disorders: The juice of turmeric powder in milk is very effective for intestinal disorders.

• Good antiseptic

Anaemia: Turmeric is a rich source of iron. A teaspoon of raw turmeric juice with a bit of honey will help us overcome anaemia.

Asthma: A teaspoon of turmeric with a glass of warm milk helps in fighting phlegm and cough and relieves asthmatic stress.

Wounds: Applying a paste of turmeric mixed with sweet lime juice is a good first aid for cuts, bleeding, burns, ulcers or swellings

Magic!

Besides, turmeric also helps us to get rid of round worms and intestinal worms, eye disorders etc.

Turmeric - As a Cosmetic:

Turmeric is currently used in the formulation of sun screens. Turmeric gives a glow to the skin and keeps away harmful bacteria. It deters hair growth and is a good antiseptic. It has been considered as auspicious cosmetic traditionally and has been used by women all over India. But modern day women shy away from its use because it leaves a strong yellow stain. But turmeric has proved itself to be nature's precious gift!

- Kousalya Narendran,
Std.X,
Vasant Vihar High School and Junior College, Thane (W)

• The tuber

The Pain of Saying Goodbye!

Nimisha is my dear classmate and a lovely friend. She has spent ten years with me. We fought, became friends again, played a lot, had loads of fun, broke many rules got into trouble and learnt many lessons together in life! We had a great time.

Now, she and I and all my friends are in the eighth standard. As this academic year's end approached, one day Nimisha announced in class that she was leaving school because her father had been transferred to Dubai on work. She was so sad and upset to leave us - her friends with whom she had spent ten years of schooling.

In the month of April 2008 she is going to leave. The time we all spent together will remain as cherished memories. We had fun and frolic, laughter and sadness and successes and failures.

As the day approaches for Nimisha to leave, I can feel the pain of bidding farewell.

I would like to include on behalf of all my classmates, "Goodbye Nimisha! We will all miss you a lot!"

- Rohini, Age: 13,
C.S.I. Ewart School,
Chennai

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Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 032.
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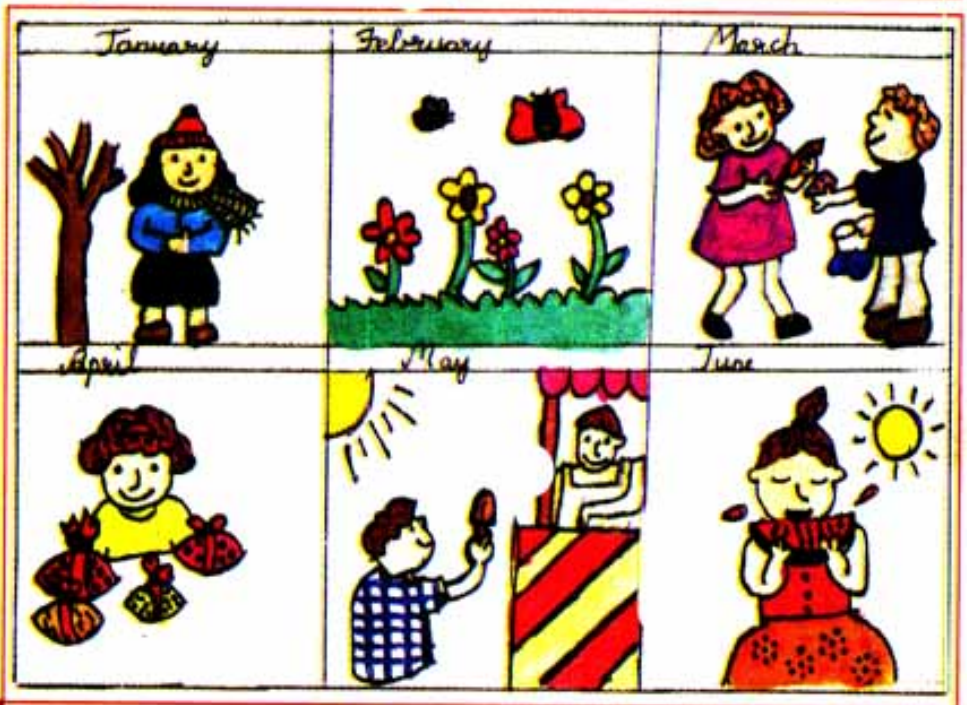

COLOUR Burst

Janhavi J.S.Kerkar, Std.VIII,
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B.Venkataramanan, Std.VII,
S.B.I.O.A. Model M.H.S.S.
Mogappair (W), Chennai

Aanandita, Age - 6,
Canossa Primary School

Geetha Canpadee

The fellow standing behind Jassy had the mask of a weird creature covering his face and before the terrified girl could as much as let out a shriek, he caught hold of her and held a firm arm across her mouth. Jassy now began struggling and kicking the attacker who was trying to drag her away from the spot. Being a girl of strong build, it was getting difficult for the masked guy to pull her along and when he tried to strengthen his grip, the best thing Jassy could do was bite his palm that clasped her mouth. It was now the turn of the attacker to gasp in pain as he let go the struggling girl for a moment. Jassy instantly took to her heels and ran down the lane screeching 'Help! Help! Help!'

Meanwhile, Rajeev was still fighting the guy who had pounced on him first. He couldn't see much of what had happened to Jassy but when he heard her cry for help, he knew she had managed to escape. He decided to hold on to the masked attacker till somebody came along to the rescue. But just then he spotted the second guy tower over him and try to drag his fellow-man away.

"Let's get away," he hissed urgently "Come on, be quick"

The first attacker hurriedly let go Rajeev who was trying to pull him down by clinging on to his shirt. In the bargain he tore at his pockets and before he could manage to get on to his feet, the two masked men had disappeared just as suddenly as they had appeared. Rajeev ran to and fro in all directions trying to guess where they had gone but all he could see was darkness everywhere!

Period inbetween, Jassy had gone speeding straight back to where the others were waiting for her at the back stage.The group dance was about to begin and Mr.Parthasarthy was getting angry at the negligence shown by her and Rajeev. But when Jassy came rushing in a state of tremor, all they could do was drop everything and listen to what she had to say.

"Now all of you listen carefully," said Partha sir, trying to sound as composed as possible."I'm leaving right away along with Jassy to Rajeev's

COTTAGE No.13

Serial Chapter - V

rescue.The rest of you go ahead with your group dance and join us at Cottage No. 13 as soon as the programme is over."

"Stay calm and let's not unnecessarily get the audience panicky," he added hurrying towards the exit. "Whoever is responsible for causing such disturbances will not escape unpunished, that's for sure."

And with that, the nervy man was seen tearing away, with Jassy close at his heels.

When the twosome reached Cottage No. 13, they found Rajeev running hither and tither in search of the attackers.

"They just like that vanished into thin air." He spat in despair. "I nearly had one of them in my grasp."

"It's okay, whoever they are, can't escape from the heritage resort that easily." Mr. Partha put his arms around the boy with assurance. "We have a record of people who are staying at this

place and a list of the guests who have come here today for the cultural fest."

"But Sir, whoever it is has been at this place since yesterday atleast." Jassy pointed out with a shiver. And she came out with how she had spotted a shadow inside the Chettinadu house the previous day and how an intruder had been at Cottage No. 13, the previous night."

"My goodness, why didn't you tell me all this at the first instance?" Mr.Parthasarthy questioned in anger. "I could have traced the culprits by now."

"But Sir, initially I thought it was Varun playing a prank on me." Jassy confessed with embarrassment. "When I told the other girls even they believed it could be him, but this morning when we confronted the boys, they made it clear that Varun was not to be blamed."

"We boys do enjoy playing pranks, I agree, but not to the extent of terrorising someone, in the middle of the night," Rajeev clarified. "Infact after we heard what had happened,we were rather worried and thought of setting up an investigation, but before that came along this unexpected attack."

"Hmm...somebody is really trying to play a bad joke" the man in charge withdrew into his thoughts for a while. "It's not one but two of them to be tracked down. And now if they have gone to the extent of attacking you guys, then it is not a simple affair at all," he said after a pause.

"If they have gone to the extent of attacking you guys, then it is not a simple affair at all."

"But why us?" Rajeev seemed to grin in sarcasm. "We've come in just yesterday and hardly anybody knows us here."

"I'll look into the matter and get to the bottom of what's happening." Mr.Parthasarthy sounded confident. "It could be some silly fellows enacting their filimi hero stunts and much so because they are sure to go undiscovered since they are disguised behind their masks."

"Quite possible but then they should be taught a lesson." Rajeev clarified rather roughly. "They shouldn't be trying this out again."

"They won't. Trust me." Parthasarthy assured. "Now you can all relax and let me do the rest of the inspection."

Just then the rest of the group arrived and Raksha as usual had her fixation on number 13.

"Sir, somehow I still feel it's all got to do with this unlucky cottage." She began with her voice quivering."Can you please organize another place for us?"

"Fine, let me see," Mr. Partha had an amused smile shaping up. "Let me call up the reception and find out."

He quickly dialled the reception and added after a brief conversation on the phone.

"Yes, you can shift to Cottage No.10, very next to where the boys stay.The cottage is ready and you can move in right away."

"And probably tomorrow we'll all sit for a session with Raksha." He added with a gentle laugh. "Of how No. 13 has a stake in deciding people's destiny!"

The children laughed at the joke though somehow at the bottom of their hearts they had also begun to think superstitiously like Raksha. After all the intruders had targetted Cottage No.13 not once, but twice.

"Well, cheer up boys and girls, you have lot's of interesting activities lined up for the next couple of days." Mr.Parthasarthy, resumed, trying to pep up their fallen moods. "You'll be going sightseeing in Chennai and taking part in heritage walks and finally lodge as guests with a few local families who are looking forward to welcoming you."

"Yippee..." the children yelled, the 'enthu' coming back to their voices."That'll be great."

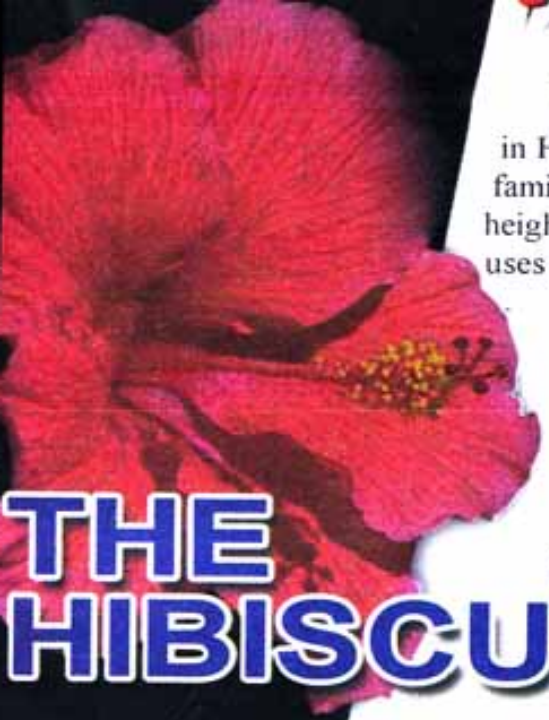
"So, now sleep well for the night and leave the rest to me," the co-ordinator added as he took leave. "I'll be putting folks on vigil and you are free to call me anytime."

"See you all at seven in the morning at the lobby."

"Sir, somehow I still feel it's all got to do with this unlucky cottage."

The children waved goodnight and turned to shifting things from Cottage No.13 as quickly as possible.

(To be continued)



THE HIBISCUS

The flowers of the hibiscus, known as 'Rudra Pushpa' in sanskrit and 'Gudihal' in Hindi, have separated petals in bright colours. The plant belongs to Malavacia family and its botanical name is 'Hibiscus Rosa Sinesis'. It grows upto 4 metres in height. The leaves are round in shape with teeth shaped edges. This plant has many uses and is found in 19 varieties.

As a hair dye

The leaves are dried and then powdered to be used as hairdye. The sticky substance in the leaves and flowers gives colour and strength to the hair. It balances the PH levels in the hair.

As a medicine

Flowers are placed in coconut oil. They are boiled and then applied on the hair. This prevents greying of hair. It acts as a good medicinal tonic to control dandruff. Intake of leaves boiled in castor oil reduces pain. Pieces of the flower are fried in ghee. Intake of this (with sugar) is said to relieve excess bleeding during menstruation. Hibiscus should be planted in our gardens because not only is it beautiful, it is a medicinal plant too.

- G.Sahiti, Std.X, KV, Secunderabad

Drawing by: G.Shweta, Std IV, Bharathi MHSS, Coimbatore

BOOK REVIEW

Dragon Rider

Most of us prefer only fantasy books especially Harry Potter. But, Cornelia Funke's Dragon Rider is equally good, or maybe even better. The book shows us the true worth of being at home and also the threats that man poses to creatures other than himself.

In this story, dragons are endangered because humans try to build a dam in the secret dwelling of the dragons. So, one silver dragon, firedrake, along with his friend, Sorrel, the brownie-girl with two hands sets out to find another dragon home on the Himalayas called the Rim of Heaven. They seek the help of the dragon rider Ben, who is a human. But Nettlebrand, a golden dragon, who is also a dragon hunter, follows Firedrake into the Rim of Heaven to finish off the other dragons. But they come up with a plan to eliminate the golden dragon so that the dragons can live peacefully.

Here, a big question arises. Are dragons good? Funke looks into the positive side. She takes us on a ride on a dragon's back to visit places like Egypt, Arabia, Pakistan and Tibet. We also get to visit the Himalayas. The story is a mixture of fantasy, adventure and a little comedy here and there. It is a dreambook. Children and some adults enjoy it too. When I opened the book, I stepped into an entirely different world and after finishing the book I felt as though I had come back to our own world! I am sure you will think so too. So go on, read it!

- Priya Ramakrishnan, Std.VIII,
Vidyodaya Matriculation
Academy, Chennai - 34

Dr. G.GANESAN

● **Suchitra Divakaran, Goa**

? What is gastritis? How can we prevent it?

! Gastritis is the condition where the inner layer of the stomach is eroded or inflamed. Bacterial infection caused by helicobacter pylori is the most common cause for gastritis. The other causes are excessive intake of alcohol, cigarette smoking, frequent use of pain relievers such as aspirin, ibuprofen etc, stressful life and reflux of bile from gallbladder into stomach. To prevent gastritis, we should eat our meals frequently in small quantity; avoid spicy, acidic, fried and fatty foods. Tender coconut water is an excellent remedy for gastritis.

● **Abhishek Chatterjee, Bhubaneshwar**

? What are hereditary diseases?

! Hereditary diseases or genetic diseases are caused either by abnormalities or defects in genes or chromosomes. They are passed from parents to their children through genes. Normal genes carry chemical instructions for the formation of proteins. Defective genes affect the formation and function of proteins. Example: Haemophilia. The haemophiliacs

** Tender coconut water is an excellent remedy for gastritis.*

are born with a defective gene and are unable to produce a protein needed for blood clotting. As a result, they suffer from prolonged bleeding when they are injured. Some other examples are Down's syndrome, Klinefelter syndrome, Turner syndrome and Marfan syndrome.

for Acne, Please...!

- **Meenakshi, Mumbai**

? I suffer from pimples and acne. Can you suggest some home remedies to treat them?

! Pimples and acne are common among teenage girls more than boys. Here are some home made remedies useful to cure them: A mixture of sandalwood paste and turmeric can be applied on the face daily. Make an orange peel paste by grinding it in some water and apply it over the pimples. Rub fresh garlic in and around pimples regularly. Apply curd on face and leave on for 10 minutes and rinse off. Use fresh lime juice mixed with a glass of boiled milk as face wash.

Use fresh garlic as a face-scrub to make your skin glow...!

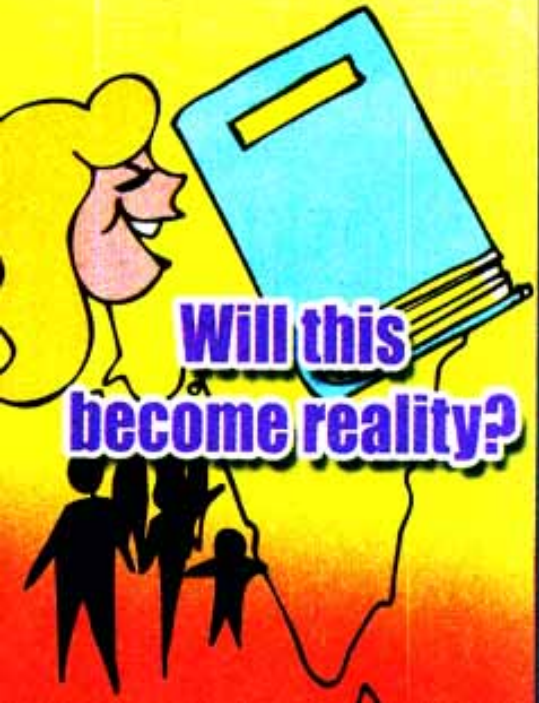
- **Hamsini Natarajan, Panipat**

? Is there any relation between asthma and eczema?

! People with eczema do not always develop asthma. However, a link exists between eczema and asthma. One study found that 46% of boys and girls with eczema also had asthma.

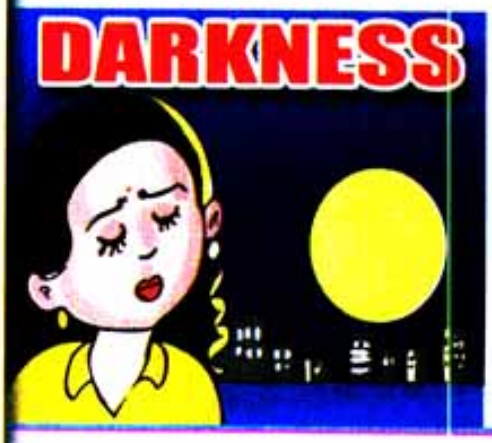
Kashmir without terrorism;
Constitution without violation;
Politics without corruption;
Youth without restriction;
Law and order without discrepancy
Humans without jealousy;
Fights without violence;
Selection without partiality;
Business without cheating;
People without illiteracy;
Culture without western influence;
Rain without floods
Seasons without extremes
India without poverty...?

- M.R. Nandhini, Std. X,
Bharathi Vidya Bhavan
H.S.School,
Erode



Her immense beauty,
I never can describe
Her eerie silence,
I never can express

Darkness I prefer at times,
To the sights of daylight
In darkness,
I don't have to see



Pollution! Pollution! every where
Clean air to be found no where!
Smoke from vehicles and industries
Always pollutes the air
To live on this earth has
Became a nightmare.
Sewage water, industrial waste,
Oil slick and the garbage.
Always threaten the life of everyone in this age.
There could be doom and
Maybe my friends,

Those treeless lands
Those polluted cities
That choked up planet

She always sheilds me from,
Those blood smeared walls
Those famine ridden lands
Those drooping smileless
faces

But alas! under her care I
can't always be,
For, day light will come once
again
And reveal sights of sadness.

- Aswati Anil Warrier, Std. IX,
Pius Girls High School,
Edappaly,
Kerala

Pollution

You can hear the noise
Even if you are on the moon

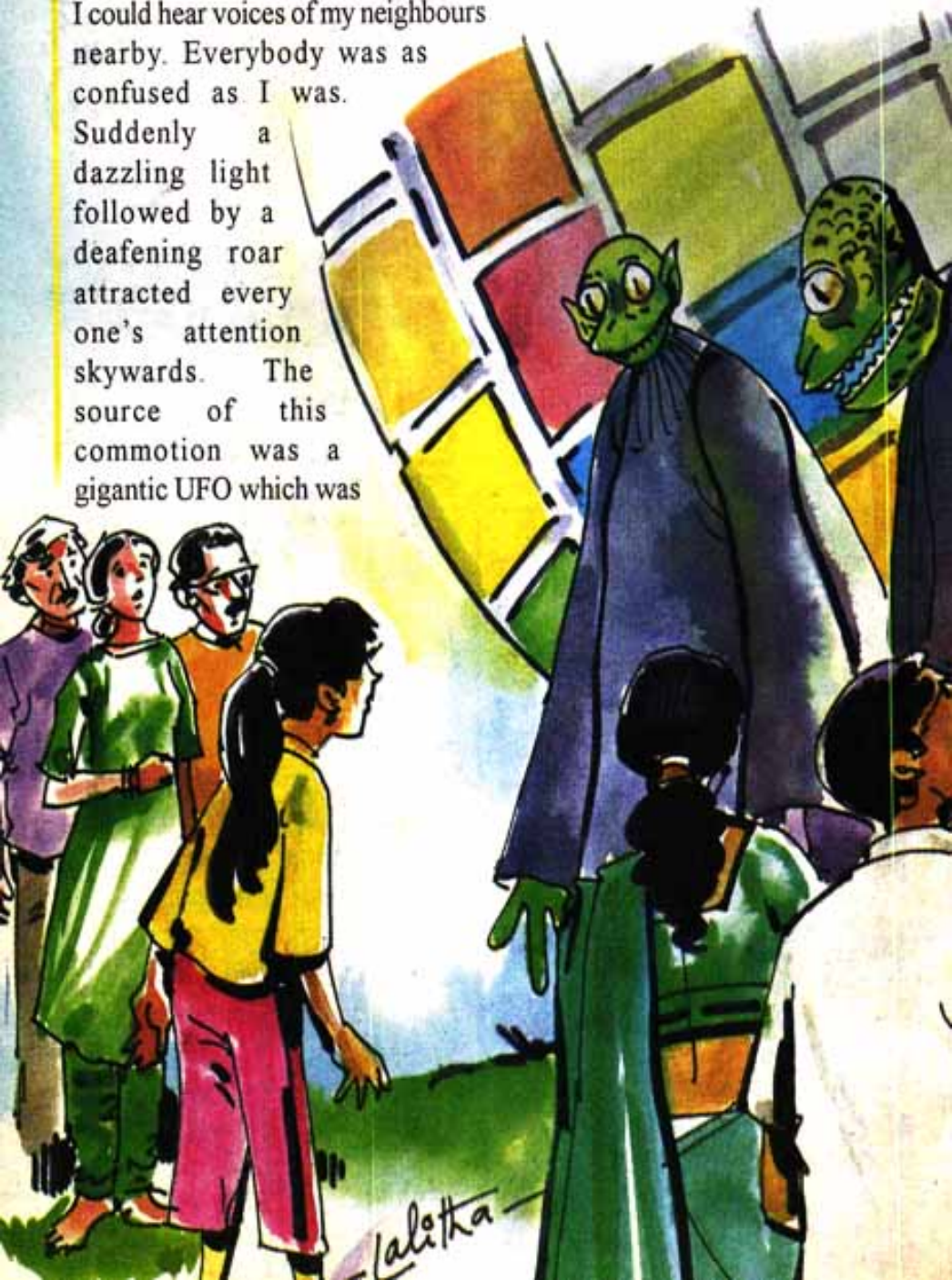
- Diksha Gupta, SMQ 346,
AFA, Dundigal,
Hyderabad - 93

LIFE OF A COIN

I was born in a mint.
And brought up in a bank.
My schooling was in a child's
pouch.
I worked in purses and wallets.
You ask about my old age?
Well.... I experienced it in a
beggar's pocket.
Now I've been lying 'dead'
For many years in a river bed,
Waiting in vain to be rescued,
To start life once again.

- V. Nithya,
Std.VIII,
Sishya School,
Hosur

It all started on that fateful day, a week ago, or was it a month? I don't know, I've lost track of time. I was doing my daily chores when suddenly there was a blackout. I ran out of the house into utter darkness. I could hear voices of my neighbours nearby. Everybody was as confused as I was. Suddenly a dazzling light followed by a deafening roar attracted every one's attention skywards. The source of this commotion was a gigantic UFO which was hurtling towards us at an unbelievably fast pace. There were excited and nervous noises from the people around me. Some people even started frantically clicking pictures of the flying saucer.



The Zerocks' Warning

DIVYA BALASUBRAMANIAM

But my intuition told me that something was not right. This UFO certainly didn't bode well for us.

Now the UFO was very close to landing and I realised for the first time how huge it was. The very sight of it sent chills down my spine. The UFO was shaped like a sphere (which looked like a disc from a distance). The sphere had millions of windows which emitted light of various colours. Faintly, I could make out grotesque silhouettes of alien creatures.

The UFO finally landed in a large open wheat field. The crop burnt on impact. People started gathering around the UFO. I tried to stay calm and watched the proceedings from a distance.

A strange thing happened. The upper part of the spherical UFO drifted upwards and about ten aliens glided towards us. The creatures were taller than us having large protruding eyes, about a 100 crooked teeth in broad jaws and ashen green skin, an oblong head, pointed ears (much like an elf's) about 8 feet tall, wearing billowing black robes. I took note of their arms and hands which were longer than an average human's. Their hands had four fingers, including a thumb, complete with nails. In spite of their hideous appearance, they looked intelligent

and...evil.

I rushed forward. The alien creature who seemed to be their leader took out a strange instrument which was cubical and made of a metal which I was sure wasn't found on earth. The leader grunted something to his kinsfolk who grunted back. All of us stared shocked and full of anticipation. The leader of the aliens pressed a button on the instrument and a strange sound filled the atmosphere which sounded vaguely familiar. It resembled the calls of a thousand birds, all jumbled up. This was odd; birds were found only on Earth, right?

This sound was queerly pleasant to hear and I began to feel drowsy. My mind started getting rid of thoughts. People around me were experiencing the same kind of feelings. We began to feel a strange sense of relaxation, like we had been freed of all worries and tension. We began to forget who we were. It was then that I panicked. But there was nothing I could do about it. The intensity of the sound increased and it had drastic consequences.

We didn't know who we were or where we were or where we belonged. We couldn't do anything except what was put into our heads. We simply behaved like robots! We had forgotten all about it until a crash came and the spell broke.

We couldn't do anything except what was put into our heads. We simply behaved like robots!

Our drowsiness was washed away and we began to come to our senses. The leader of the alien group addressed us saying, "Hail Earthlings!"

We were now able to understand what the creature was saying. Probably, the pleasant music that emanated from the cubical instrument enabled us to do so.

I went forward to face the alien leader, who said, "We the Zerocks from the planet of Xena have come here to Earth not to destroy it. In fact we have great regard for Earth as it nurtured our ancestors trillions of years ago who later migrated to our dear planet of Xena which is just a few light years away from Earth. The history of our race goes back to times immemorial. For a long time, we had been living on Xena, which was bountiful. It provided us with everything we needed. But then, we started exploiting the resources recklessly. Xena wasn't going to bear this ill treatment for long. When her fury was aroused, she sent terrible dust storms, volcanic eruptions, cyclones of swirling masses of poisonous gases such as sulphur dioxide and quakes. In such a situation, life wasn't possible on Xena. So our ancestors began to look for alternative

places to live. They found Earth to be the most suitable planet for life, after Xena. Thus, for about a century our ancestors resided on Earth. By then the fury of Xena had subsided and our ancestors returned to Xena.

"Since then, we have kept Earth under tight scrutiny. We observed the evolution of you humans and other organisms. But disturbingly you humans are repeating the mistake we committed. You are destroying your Earth, Mother Nature and her resources. Already crises such as global warming and ozone layer depletion are a cause for great concern. Their consequences can be really disastrous.

"I, on behalf of the entire race of Zerocks, want to warn you, Earthlings. Be careful! Should there be a day that the conditions on Earth are no longer suitable for habitation, all the species of Earth are welcome to Xena which is 30 times as big as the Earth. Atmospheric conditions in Xena are similar to Earth's. I am just expressing my gratitude to Earth for what she had done for us by protecting her children in their hour of crisis.

"If you are in need of our help, just press the red button on the box," he said, handing the cubical instrument to me. "My name is Zurin Zorh."

I was speechless. This was so amazing, so shocking and also so amusing. All my fears had been in vain. These hideous creatures had actually come here to help us by providing an alternative place to live, not to capture us and take us away to some spooky planet. I was so relieved that I began to laugh. I couldn't stop myself. Suddenly, all the people around me started laughing too.

All my fears had been in vain. These hideous creatures had actually come here to help us.

Finally when all the laughter had subsided, I thanked Zurin who was watching us in surprise.

"Thank you so much, Mr.Zurin Zorh," I said. " We would be glad to avail of your help. Our scientists are trying to figure out ways to combat global warming but they are not making much headway. Give my regards to all Zerocks."

Zurin nodded and said, "We leave in peace then. Farewell."

"Farewell," I said "on behalf of all organisms on Earth, and thank you."

The Zerocks were already gliding back to their spacecraft. The sphere suspended in thin air got attached again to the main craft. With a deafening roar, the UFO rose in the air and soared away to Xena.

Sir Isaac Newton, the great scientist had a dog called Diamond, which he loved as dearly as a friend.

One night, Newton was working alone at his table on an important science problem. He was so happy when he had solved it that he thought of going out for some time to enjoy fresh air. He bundled up all the papers, put them into the file and got up to leave the room.

Diamond who was lying under the table saw Newton leaving the room and decided to join its master. But when it jumped towards the door, it toppled the burning candle on the

NEWTON

table and the file, which caught fire. The file containing the solution was reduced to ashes.

Newton was shocked at this. He stared for sometime at Diamond. Then without any trace of anger he said, "My dear, you will never know what you have done," and patted it on its back.

Newton's greatness is not only because he was one of the best scientists but because he had control over his senses, emotion and anger. Good qualities such as love and forgiveness made him even more great.

Source: A book

- Meenakshi,
Std.IX, J.B.Khot,
Mumbai

Meera: Rani, why do you keep sugar crystals under your pillow?

Rani: So that I get sweet dreams.

Afzal: Bhargav, do you know that Akash is our class monitor?

Bhargav: Really, then who is the keyboard?

Mohit: Sohan, do you know I took my bath today without soap? (Looking at his hands)

Sohan: Mohit, do you know that I took my bath today without water!

- K.Preeti Padma, Std.V, L.P.S. Public School, Jaykaypur, Rayagada

"Is catering... 'job-oriented' course Vinoth...?"

"To me...it is a... 'Soup-oriented' course sir!"

- G. Sailakshmi, Sri Sarada Matriculation School, Ariyakulam

"What do ants take when they are ill?"

"Anty Biotics!"

- S. Anantha Lakshmi, Std. VII, St.John's High School, Bengalooru

Father: Did you enjoy the heavy rainfall yesterday night, my son?

Son: Yes. I did father.

Mother: Is it so? Then why didn't you wake me up? You know that I can't sleep when it's raining.

- Spoorthi Bandeshreddy, Std.VIII, SBR Public School, Gulbarga

Why did Mickey Mouse get Shot?

Why did Mickey Mouse get shot?

Because Donald Ducked!

What's the last thing you take off before going to sleep?

Your feet off the floor!

Who was bigger, Mr. Bigger or his son?

His son...he was a 'little' Bigger!

Why did Robin Hood steal from the rich?

Because the poor didn't have any money!

What do you call a city with 2,000 eggs?

New Yolk City!

- T.M.Shilpa, Std.IX, H.C.C.V, Chennai

Hello Children!

To get your Mini Gokulam....

Step 1: With the help of an adult, bend back the stapler pins on pages 40-41. Carefully remove pages 37 to 44. Now, push the stapler pins back carefully to place without hurting yourself.

Step 2: Fold and cut pages along the dotted line as instructed on page 37. The bottom half of page 37 will now become the first page of your Mini Gokulam and the top half of the same page will turn into the last page of Mini Gokulam... Got it...?

Step 3: Now, check to see if the sequence of pages is in order and then staple them together.

Your Mini Gokulam is ready!

Happy Holidays! Have Fun!

PIN HERE

FOLD AND CUT HERE

SOLUTIONS

Doggy Grid

a) Labrador
b) Dalmatian
c) Daschund
d) St.Bernard
e) Pug
i) Chihuahua
g) Collie
h) Doberman
i) Boxer
j) Poodle

Puzzle Corner

I. 1. Bad, 2. Axe, 3. Den

II. 1. Let, 2. Ewe, 3. Ten

III. 1. Fur, 2. Use, 3. Red

money. Don't stress your parents for costly activities. With a little creativity and searching, you will be delighted and surprised to find that many activities can be enjoyed for free!

3. Safety First!

During summer there are risks of sunburn, heat exhaustion, sun stroke and dehydration if you're not careful. Be sure that all elements are considered before you head outdoors!

4. Don't Overschedule Yourself:

Camps and special interest activities are wonderful, but beware of overplanning yourself. Keep some flexibility in your schedules and at the same time do something useful.

5. Keep Food Choices Simple and Light.

Don't fall in the trap of too much takeout and fast food. Drink fresh juices, eat green vegetables and drink lots of water.

- J. Vishnu, Std.IX, Shiksha Kendra M.H.S.S, Vellore

Tongue Twisters

1. If a doctor doctors another doctor, does the doctor who doctors the doctor doctor the doctors the way the doctor he is doctoring doctors? Or does the doctor doctor the way the doctor who doctors doctors?

2. A tutor who tooted the flute, tried to tutor two tooters to toot. Said the two to the tutor, "Is it harder to toot or to tutor two tooters to toot?"

Source: Internet

- A.Vandana, Std.XI, D.T.E.A.S.S.S, R.K.Puram, New Delhi

Stress Free Summer

The summer months can present fun opportunities for travel, camps, and time with parents. Here are some tips for enjoying a stress-free summer!

1. Plan Ahead for Summer Activities:

Summer fun activities are available in most cities. Check with your city recreation departments, local attractions and libraries for starters to find what the offers are and what costs may be involved.

2. Create a Budget and Stick to it:

A big stress for families over the summer month is spending too much

Magic Box

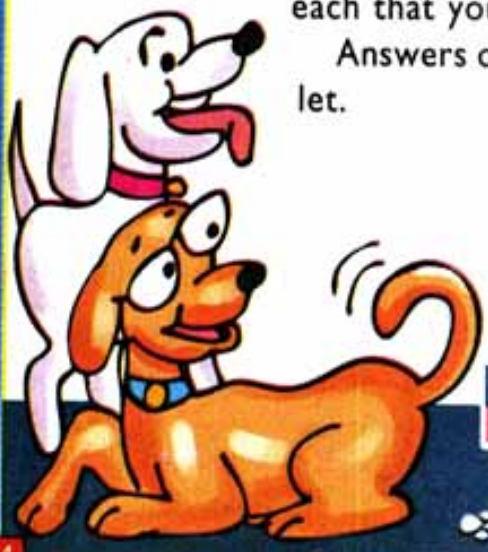
Add the numbers given in the box from end to end vertically, horizontally and diagonally across the centre... You will find something amazing!

Try to create more such boxes on your own which will add up to form the same total in each row.

1	8	2	7
6	3	5	4
7	2	8	1
4	5	3	6

- Akshatha Nayak, Std.VIII, Kunjathur, Kerala.

DOGGY GRID!

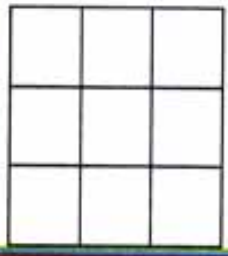


Here's a gridful of doggies for you...! Find the names of their breeds. They run both left to right and right to left, vertically, horizontally and diagonally. If you can find ten of them your score is 100! Minus ten points for each that you cannot find!

Answers on the last page of this booklet.

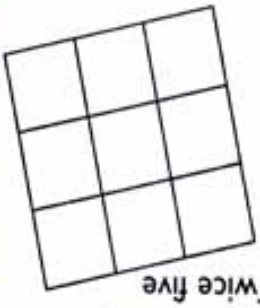
Compiled by :
Phagun Agarwal, Std.IX,
Army School, Fatehgarh

II



1. Allow
2. Female sheep
3. Twice five

III



1. Coat of a cat
2. Employ a tool
3. A 'dangerous' colour

I

J. Vishnu,
Std.IX,
Shiksha Kendra
M.H.S.S,
Vellore

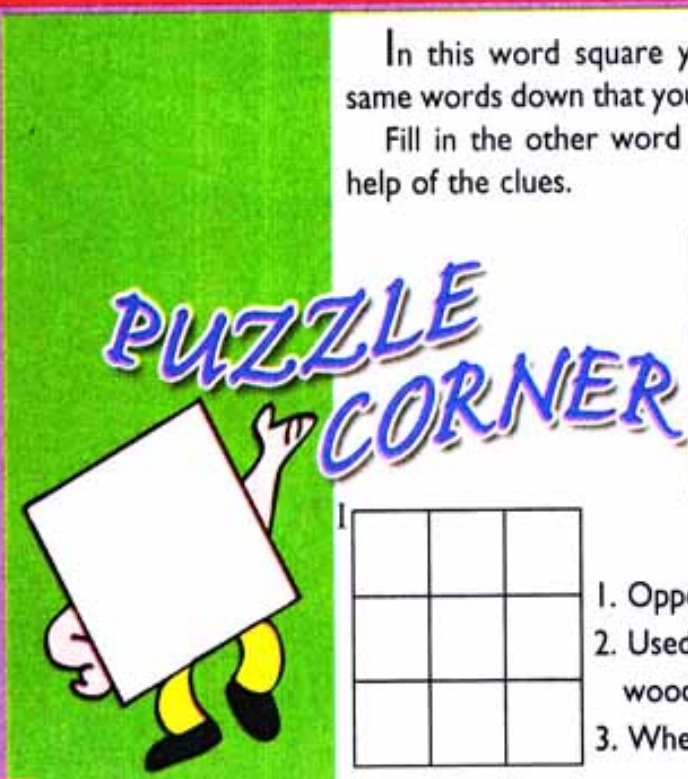
Answers on the last page of this booklet

R	A	O	G	V	W	G	N	O	C
O	D	A	S	C	H	U	N	D	H
D	A	R	B	S	D	P	C	E	I
A	L	I	A	R	U	O	C	L	H
R	M	S	R	N	L	Q	P	D	U
B	A	D	X	L	R	R	D	O	A
A	T	A	I	M	X	E	R	O	H
L	I	E	G	L	O	X	B	P	U
N	A	M	R	E	B	O	D	T	A
Z	N	S	Y	L	W	B	N	Y	S

In this word square you can read the same words down that you can read across.

Fill in the other word squares with the help of the clues.

F	A	R
A	C	E
R	E	D

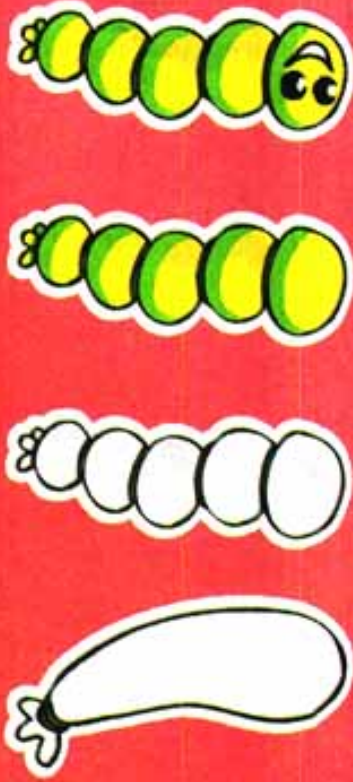


1

1. Opposite of good
2. Used for chopping wood
3. Where a lion sleeps

mud and tie up the end with a piece of string. Now you have a tubby caterpillar body, with a snubby end and a frilly end. Slip the rubber bands over the mud-filled socks and fix them at regular intervals across the full length. Decorate this crawly caterpillar with bright yellow and green colours. Fix buttons or round sticker bindis as eyes on the snubby end. Place your pet on a piece of paper in your room, so that he does not leave behind a trail of mud!

- E. Sai Lakshmi Prasanna, Std.V,
St.Joseph s Girls High School,
Vishakapatnam



Jam Ice - Cream

Beat the Heat!

Here's very easy to prepare, healthy and yummy ice cream for you. Try and enjoy it. This dish is known as 'Jam Ice-Cream'.

Ingredients: Mixed fruit jam - 6-8 spoons, Milk - 2 cups, Sugar - 4 spoons, Cashews, dry fruits.

Method: Mix milk, jam and sugar in a blender (mixie). Pour the mixture into ice cream cups and keep in the freezer for 2-3 hours. Remove from freezer and decorate with cashews and dry fruits.

Tackle summer with your home made ice cream!

- A. Priya and Shanthini,
K.V.Annanagar, Chennai

Crunch Munch

Beat the Heat!

Ingredients: Cabbage 1 small wedge, shredded thinly, Capsicum 1 chopped fine, Sprouted whole moong - 1 cup, Pomegranate - peeled and separated from skin - 1 cup, Coriander - cut fine, Lime juice, Chaat masala.

Method: Mix all the cut vegetables, moong and pomegranate.

Make a dressing of lime juice, chaat masala and salt. Pour the dressing over the salad and mix well. Your healthy Crunch Munch is ready to be served!

- Sheethal R.Holla, Std.VI,
Jyothy Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Bengalooru

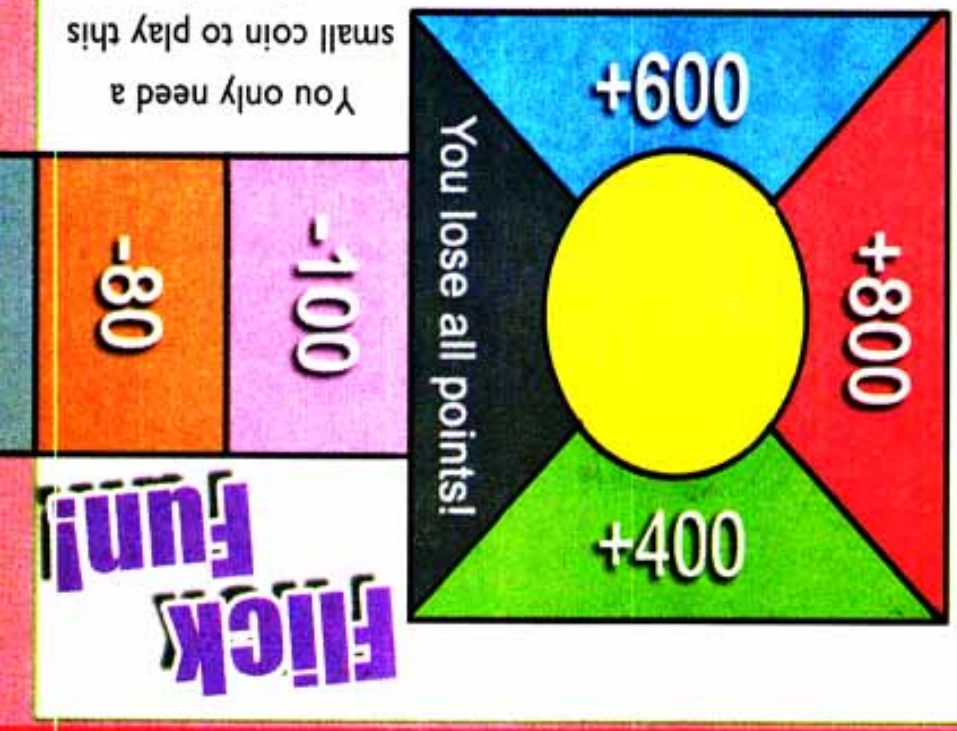
CRAWLY CATTERPILLAR!

Do it Yourself!

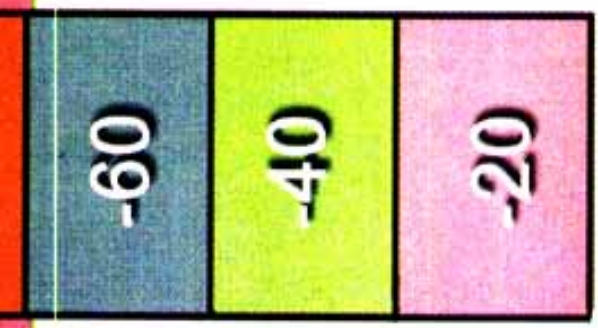
Here's an activity that will enable you to play both outdoors and indoors!

You Need: Old socks, rubber bands, mud; string, paints.

Method: Fill the old socks with



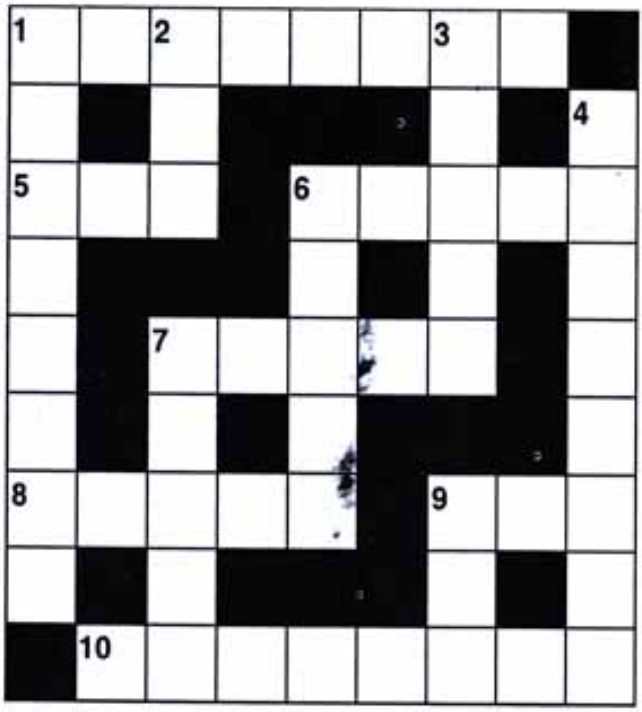
You only need a small coin to play this game. Place this coin at the bottom edge outside the game grid. Using your thumb and index finger, try to strike it (as you would while playing carrom) into the square marked 1000. Your plus and minus



Place Coin Here

scores are marked on each square. See who can score maximum points in 3 minutes. If you are playing alone, try to outdo yourself with every round!

Good Luck!



Clues

Across:

1. A thin 'wick' inside an electrical bulb.

5. Change ten to catch fish (3)

6. Capital of a neighbouring country of India (5)

7. '..... tension' is another name for high blood pressure (5)

8. Always? No, just the opposite (5)

9. A baked dish - usually with fruit filling (3)

10. Fire-proof roofing (8)

Down:

1. A lost ship will be relieved to... (4,4)

2. Plenty (3)

3. Between nice and nicest (5)

4. For many children nights are scary because of this (8)

6. The film is a super ..... hit (5)

7. They should help the have-nots (5)

9. An animal brought up as favourite (3)

-G.S.S

Gullu's Crossword - 9

Gullu's Crossword - 7

1 B	A	T	2 O	N	■	3 G	O	D
R	■	■	R	■	■	A	■	■
4 A	P	R	I	L	■	5 S	E	6 A
V	■	■	G	■	7 L	■	■	N
E	■	8 M	I	D	A	S	■	S
R	■	■	N	■	V	■	■	W
9 Y	E	10 S	■	11 B	I	B	L	E
■	■	K	■	■	S	■	■	R
12 D	R	Y	■	13 S	H	O	P	S

Congratulations!

Here are the winners of Gullu's Crossword - 7 (February 2008) and the solutions as well. The results of Gullu's Crossword - 8 will be published in the May 2008 issue.

1.V. Karthic, Std.VII, D.A.V. Public School, Chennai - 42.

2. Sukanya Rangarajan, Std.VIII, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Panvel.

3. N. Akilandeswari, Std.VIII, Vyasa Vidyalaya Mat.Hr.Sec.School, Puzhuthivakkam, Chennai.

4. Iyengar. Vaishnavi. Murali, Std.IX, S.I.C.E.S. High School, Ambarnath (East) - 421 501.

5. B. Abinaya, Std.VIII, St. Joseph's Ang.Indian Grs.Hr. Sec. School, Trichy - 2.

Gullu's Crossword - 9
ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class : .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

..... Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 20.4.2008

Hip-Hip-Hurray!

Johnny Pup was lazily closing one of its eyes and with the other eye waiting and watching eagerly for Ajay to come home from school.

"Hip-hip-hurray!" Ajay screamed as he pedalled home. Johnny Pup set off at full speed behind Ajay, thinking 'hip-hip-hurray' must mean a new yummy bone!

Snowy Cat heard Ajay's hip-hip-hurray and immediately decided that hip-hip-hurray meant a creamy cake huge as Snowy herself and off she went purring after Ajay.

Squeaky the squirrel bounded up and down the tree. She dared not go into Ajay's house for she would be gobbled up by Snowy Cat. But she pretty much thought that hip-hip-hurray meant Ajay had walnuts and she was sure she would get 'walnut treat' tomorrow as she knew Ajay had this bad habit of dropping food while eating, which eventually turned out to be a treat for Squeaky.

Freaky Fish was swimming in Ajay's aquarium lashing her golden tail. She knew for sure 'hip-hip-hurray' meant worms, though her partner Finny thought 'hip-hip-hurray' meant lots of fish food!

Creaky and Crowny the two

parrots heard the word "Thankyou... Thankyou... Thankyou Gokulam. Hip-hip-hurray" and cackled "Ajay... hurray...! Ajay... hip-hip! Ajay...hip-hip-hurray!"

Rippu Rat went Rat-a-tat and tweaked his whiskers. "What does hip-hip-hurray mean? Please... please... tell me someone..." squeaked Rippu Rat.

"O...Shut up." Cocky the Cockroach hushed. "Ajay is opening his bag and taking out hip-hip- hurray... Hope it is not the awful Cockroach Hit. The smell or the spell cast by 'Hit' is nauseating."

"Hip-hip-hurray" screamed Ajay... "My Harry Potter snippet

Finny thought 'hip-hip-hurray' meant lots of fish food!

has appeared in 'Gokulam Magazine...' in the very first month. Yeh! my article is in 'Gokulam'!"

Johnny Pup wagged his tail as Ajay placed his precious Gokulam copy on the table.

In the midst of Aaha's, Ooho's... Great... keep it up... yahoo...you hit it... from family members...

Johnny Pup had his bone. Snowy Cat was purring and licking the creamy cake... Squeaky the squirrel got her walnut pieces wheel she managed to steal, Freaky... and Finny got their worms. Rat Rippu now understood what hip-hip-hurray meant. Cocky Cockroach heaved a sigh of relief. "Thank God it's not 'Hit cockroach killer!'"

- Ajay Ashok, Std.IX,
St.Michael's Academy,
Chennai

COLOURFUL IDIOMS

- *Blue Blood: (of) high or noble birth: an aristocrat.*
- *Green with envy: very envious.*
- *In the pink: in sound health.*
- *In the red: in debt; owing money.*
- *Black and white: in writing.*
- *Paint the town red: energetic activity outside one's home.*
- *White collar: not interested in manual labour.*
- *Yellow belly: coward.*

- P. Padma Priya, Std. XI,
P.S.Chidambara Nadar Girl's Higher Secondary School, Virudhunagar

Our body contains 65% of water. Water is the major constituent of blood which supplies food and oxygen to all the cells.

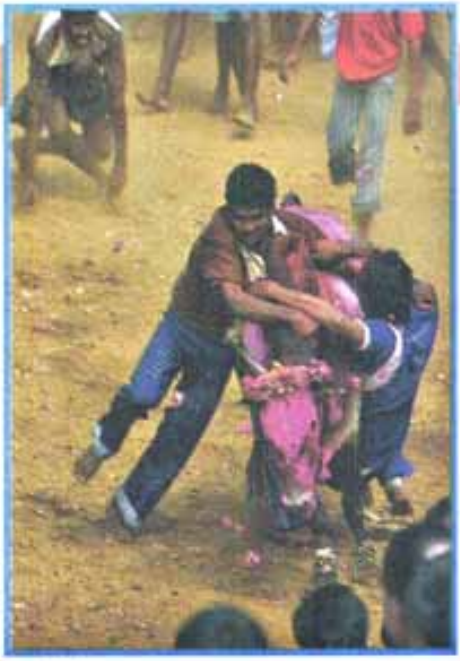
- Water helps to maintain the body temperature.
- Water has no calorific value.
- Cells contain major part of water.
- Water helps our cells to carryout intracellular metabolic activities.
- We cannot absorb, digest and assimilate our food without water. Excretion of body wastes also needs water.
- A person can survive for about a few days without food; but can hold on only 8-10 days without water. We must drink 1.5 to 2 litres of water everyday.

Source: Science book

Compiled by:
Kausalya Narendran, Std.X,
Vasant Vihar High School and Jr. College, Thane

FACT FILE

How Important is WATER?



No sport should pose danger to the life of the players. But, in jallikattu, people even die. It just cannot be considered a game. Ban it!

- G.Siddarth, Std.IV, Shrishti Vidyashram, Vellore; J.Sundara Lakshmi, Std.VII, St.Ignatius Convent H.S.S, Palayamkottai.

When we don't have the capacity to give life, we have no right to take other life merely for entertainment - This is what we do to the bull in jallikattu - It should not be permitted.

- A.G.Pallavi, Std.VI, Bala Barathi School, Bellary.

It is against Nature to tease and torture an animal whose nature is to be calm and quiet. Many traditions have been found to be brutal - (for eg.Sati) - and abolished. Similarly jallikattu too must be done away with.

- B.Bibaswan Kar, Std.VII, K.V.1, Pondicherry.

There are so many other sports which build our physical strength and give us opportunity to prove our courage and skills. Jallikattu should be banned.

- N.S.Soundarya, Std.VII, Avila Convent M.H.S.S, Coimbatore.

This sport reflects cruelty; not courage! If people want to display their courage and bravery, let them do so by launching protest movements against the government's faulty policies and help the country become a better place to live in.

- Varun Adishankar, Std.X, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Hyderabad.

Imagine yourself to be a bull being chased by so many people; it would be a nightmare! Do we celebrate mattu pongal to torture animals?

- V.Sujitha, Std.VII, Jawahar Vidyalaya, Chennai.

People who come forward to fight the bull, later regret and cry over their wounds when they are hurt! They must realize that it is equally or more painful for the poor creature. This cruelty must be banned world over.

- R.Madhu, Std.VIII, Chennai-78.

Too Cruel

View Point

Question for this month

Should students engage themselves in political parties and activities...?

Send us your views by 20.4.2008. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non- residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@ kalkiweekly.com)

Only animals attack and hurt or kill each other for food and survival. As a social animal, man should protect other animals. Why show bravery on a bull; why not on to a lion or a tiger!

- Preety.S., Std.VII, P.S.B.B.S.S.S, Chennai - 78.

Evidence shows that Jallikattu was prevalent since Harappan period. The person who participates is well aware of the risks. The game can be permitted under strict supervision.

- A. Aswin Vayiravan, Std.X, T.V.S M.H.S.S, Madurai.

The sport gives the bull a chance to vent itself - There is no stress or damage to the creature. The sport should not be banned.

- V.Shanmugam, Std.X, A.E.C.S, Mysore.

It's a sport of valour and strength and reflects Dravidian heritage. It should be permitted.

- R. Jason Kirubakaran, Std.IX, Madurai; Md.Sajid Ameen, Std.VIII, St.Joseph High School, Solapur; D.Kavya and I.Karthika, Std.VIII, Bharatiya Vidya Mandir, Pollachi.

It gives part-time employment to many. It should be encouraged.

- A. Sudarshan, std.X, R.C.P.E.M.S.S; Shirpur.

Bull fighting is a dangerous sport, but only well-trained valourous men enter it - not children or students. It can entertain people with horror. Safety measures should be adopted instead of banning the sport.

- Kafeela Parvin, Age 14, O.L.F.G.H.S, Thrissur (Kerala)

The sport should not be banned but protective equipment must be used by the participants. Safety measures as instructed by 'he court

to be a Sport!

should be taken.

- R.Santosh Krishnan, Std.VII, K.V, Chennai - 83, R.Priyanka, S.B.O.A School, J.C, Chennai - 49; Praveen.K. Std.X, Sri Sarada Balamandir Boys M.H.S.S, Salem.

The game represents our cultural norms and ancient mythology. It should continue.

- R.Adithyan, Std.X, Hussain Memorial School, Chennai - 53; Vijay G.S, Std.XI, Bengalooru.

Torturing bulls by crooked means to deliberately enrage them cannot be considered a brave sport. It is a nasty, ugly, dangerous act.

- G.Sai Laxmi, Std.VI, Sri Sarada M.H.S, Tirunelveli;

Even those who watch the jallikattu get killed in the stampede! How can this be a sport?

- Gaurav Panda, Std.VIII, St.Joseph's Convent, Sambalpur; Sohan.U.Bhat, Std.VII, Basaveshwar International Public School, Bagalkot.

Worst of all, the poor provoked animal is hurt! Ban it!

- Swagatika, Std.IX, K.V, Chennai - 90

It's a waste of time, energy and money as well.

- R.S.Madhumita, Std.X, Anna Adarsh M.H.S.S, Chennai - 40.

Many games like car-racing are risky too; but they don't endanger the lives of the audience! In jallikattu the player spectators, the poor bull - all are at risk.

- R.Varsha, Std.IX, K.V, Bauenpally.

Think of the families that suffer when people die in the pursuit of this cruel sport!

- J.Arthi and J.Bavithra Sree, B.V.M, Pollachi; A.Kashyapan, Std.VII, R.C.Patel English Medium S.S, Shirpur (Maharashtra).

Every creature has a right to survive with dignity. Jallikattu should not be permitted.

- Chowdary Sparsa, Std.VII, K.V, Kolkata; Kirthi Balakrishnan, Std.V, International School, Pune.

Even the rules imposed recently to protect the bulls are not very effective. Best to ban it completely.

- T.A. Kartik Abiram, Std.XII, B.V.B.M.H.S.S, Erode.

Birthday Bash

MANY HAPPY RETURNS...

M.Swetha celebrates her 14th birthday on 25th April. **Many happy returns of the day!**

Wishes from brother M.Manikandan, Dad-Muthuraj, Mom - Sivagami, A.S.Paramasivam Thatha and P.Vijayalaksmi Patti

Goose Berry Jam

(A good jam for memory power)

Ingredients:

Goose berries (amla) - 7 to 8
¾ th cup sugar
Dry ginger powder - 1 teaspoon
1 pinch of salt
Cardamom powder - 1 teaspoon

Procedure:

Grate the Goose berries. Place a spoon of ghee on a tawa (gridle) and add the grated gooseberries and saute for 5 minutes till it becomes yellow. Add sugar. Mix well. Cook till the mixture thickens and becomes golden in colour. Cook for 10 minutes. Add a pinch of salt, cardamom powder and dry ginger powder or ginger juice. Serve with bread. Can be stored for 15 days.

- Sirisha, Std.XI, Bengalooru

BUDDING CHEF

Ingredients:

Carrot - 2
Tomato (chopped) - 1
Cucumber - 1
Mango - A piece
Chopped onion - 1
Lemon juice - A tbspn
Salt - To taste
Sev powder - 1 tbspn
Masala powder - 2 tbspn
Chilli powder - 2 pinches
Curd - 2 tbsp
Coriander leaves

Method:

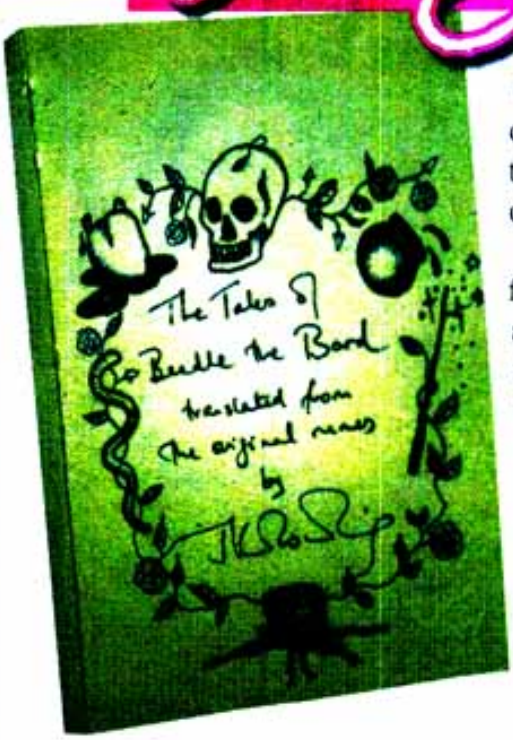
Chop the carrots, tomato, mango, cucumber, onion and place in a bowl. Add lemon juice, sev powder, masala powder, chilli powder, salt, curd. Garnish with coriander leaves and serve.

- V.Srividhya, Std. VIII, St.Anne's Mat.Hr.Sec.School, Kumbakonam

MIXED SALAD

First Review of Tales of Beedle

Here is J.K.Rowling's 'The Tales of Beedle the Bard'; exclusively for Gokulam readers. Only seven copies of this magical book exist in the whole world. Each of the tales is handwritten and illustrated by J.K.Rowling herself! We proudly present a synopsis of some of the tales in the book.



1. The Wizard and the Hopping Pot

This tale begins merrily with a kindly old Wizard, who uses his magic for the benefit of his neighbours, creating potions for them in his lucky cooking pot. After living a full life he dies and leaves everything behind for his son. But the son is not like his father. He discovers the pot, and in it a single slipper and a note from his father, that reads "In the fond hope, my son, you will never need this." Bitter about not inheriting anything but a pot, and as one who is disinterested in anyone who cannot perform magic, the son slams the door on the face of people who come to seek his help.

Suddenly a foot sprouts out of his father's old pot and he can not get away from the hopping pot that follows him. Renouncing his selfish ways, he calls all townpeople to come to him for help. One by one he cures their ills. Atlast the mysterious slipper pops out of the pot. It fits perfectly onto the foot and together the two walk off into the sunset.

2. The Fountain of Fair Fortune:

There is an enchanted fountain in this grand tale. Once a year someone who is unfortunate is given the

opportunity to approach the fountain, and win fair fortune forever. Three witches want to gain access to the fountain. They meet and share their tales of woe. The first witch is Asha, who suffers a malady no healer can cure. Second is Altheda, who has been robbed by a sorceror and the third is Amata who was deserted by her lover. The witches pool their efforts to reach the fountain together. At first a crack in the wall appears

The Bard

and creepers from the garden of fountain wrap themselves around Asha, the first witch. She grabs Altheda, who gets hold of Amata. But Amata gets tangled in the armour of a knight and all of them, including the knight, get pulled through the wall and into the garden. The first witch is upset that Amata inadvertently invited another competitor - Mr.Luckless. The knight announces his intention to abandon the quest but Amata promptly asks him to join them. On their journey they face three challenges. After a great adventure, Asha gets hurt and Altheda cures her by mixing a potion which also cures her malady. So now she won't need the fountain. When she finds she can cure. Asha, Altheda realizes that she

hence has the means to earn money. The knight falls in love with Amata and proposes to her. She accepts and the friends live long, never realizing that the water in the fountain carried no enchantment after all!

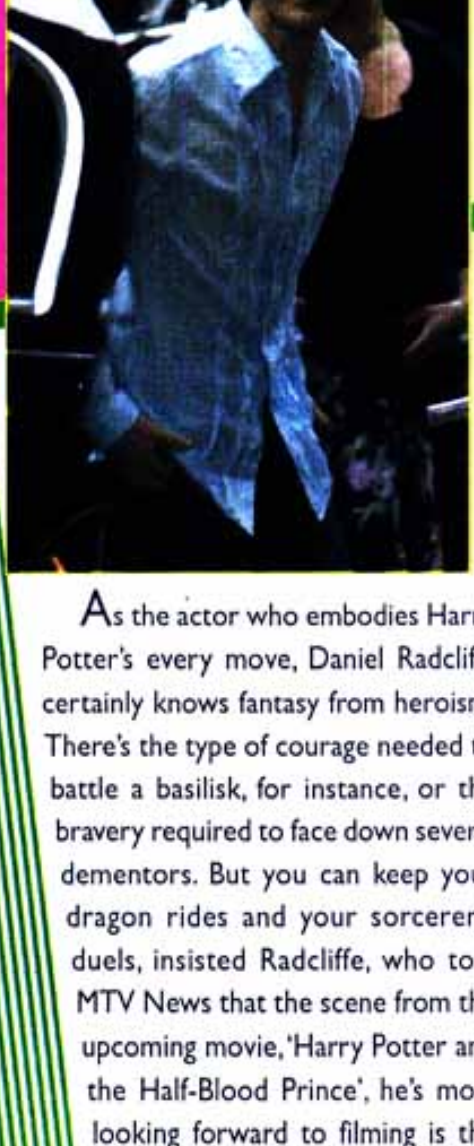
3. The Warlock's Hairy Heart:

A young handsome Wizard did not like to get married. So the young Wizard used dark arts to prevent himself from falling in love. Time passed and the Wizard witnessed his friends' marriage, he did not change his mind. One day he heard two servants making fun of him for not having a wife. He decided to marry. Next day he met a beautiful witch. He proposed to her. She told him that she would accept his proposal only if she thought he had a heart. The Wizard Warlock lead her to his dungeon, where he revealed a

his own heart! The witch was horrified when she saw the hairy heart and begged him to put it back. He obeyed. Then the young witch embraced him. But the Warlock's heart took savage action. After a while the maiden was found dead with her chest cut open. Crouched beside her was the mad Warlock licking her shining heart and planning to replace it with his own. His heart refused to leave his body and he fell over the maiden and died.

Source: Amazon.com

- J.Vishnu, Std.IX,
Shiksha Kendra M.H.S.S,
Vellore



"IT'S ALL GOING TO BE OK!"

As the actor who embodies Harry Potter's every move, Daniel Radcliffe certainly knows fantasy from heroism. There's the type of courage needed to battle a basilisk, for instance, or the bravery required to face down several dementors. But you can keep your dragon rides and your sorcerers' duels, insisted Radcliffe, who told MTV News that the scene from the upcoming movie, 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince', he's most looking forward to filming is the one in which Harry's heroism manifests itself in the simple act of telling a friend it's all going to be ok. "I'm really looking forward to filming the cave and all the stuff in there with the lake and the Inferi," Radcliffe enthused. "Me and (Michael) Gambon in a row boat for a few days. It's gonna be amazing."

"I thought it was all gonna be largely visual effects, but they have built the cave," he revealed, confirming that the shoot will be all practical. "So it's gonna be very interesting to film." We know what Dan's looking forward to, but if you were playing Harry what scene would you be dying (no pun intended) to perform?

Source: internet

– Alekhya, Std.X, St.Anns High School, Hyderabad - 32

Trip to KALINJAR

During my holidays I visited Kalinjar fort in Kalinjar a small border town in M.P. (with U.P.). We started our journey at 2:00 o' clock. The road was good and not much traffic. The lush green scenery on either side of road was wonderful.

We reached Kalinjar at 4:00 o' clock. In the fort we were joined by a mini bus and a police jeep. When we reached the top of the fort we could see lush green scenery all around.

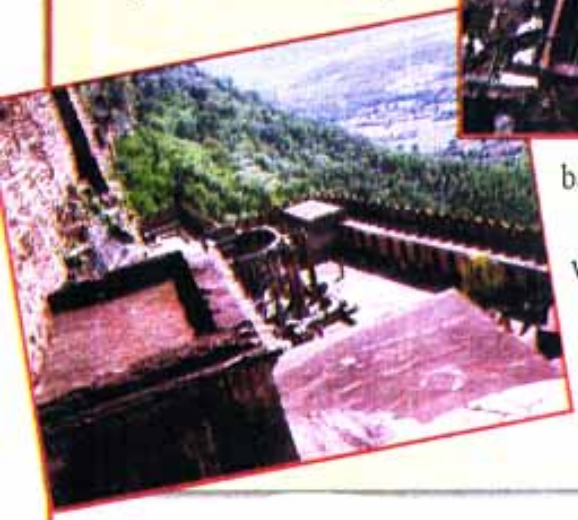
The Kalinjar fort was built by king Amman Singh. It is bounded by a 7 mile long wall. Gate 7 was blown up by Aurangzeb with cannons. On exploring further we saw a giant statue of Bhairav. We went to a beautiful carved temple – Neelkanth - temple. We then dined at the canteen. We went to Mrugdhera - a place where water flows 24 hours. When we looked down the sides we were amazed to find that we were standing at a great height on the mountains.

We then went inside the main fort where many idols of God had been recovered. They were beautifully carved.

We played games and then it started raining. We came back to the canteen for refreshments. We were told that some parts of the

fort had been reconstructed.

We left for our hometown at 6 p.m. We said good bye to all the people and we went down to Kalinjar town on our way



back to my home town Banda.

Readers should visit the fort. It was an unforgettable and exciting trip.

– Mohit Kumar, Std.X,
S.T.Mary's Sen.Sec.School,
Banda (U.P.)-210 001

Birthday Bash

My sister Samickshaa .V celebrates her third birthday on 21st April and so I wish my sister a very happy birthday.

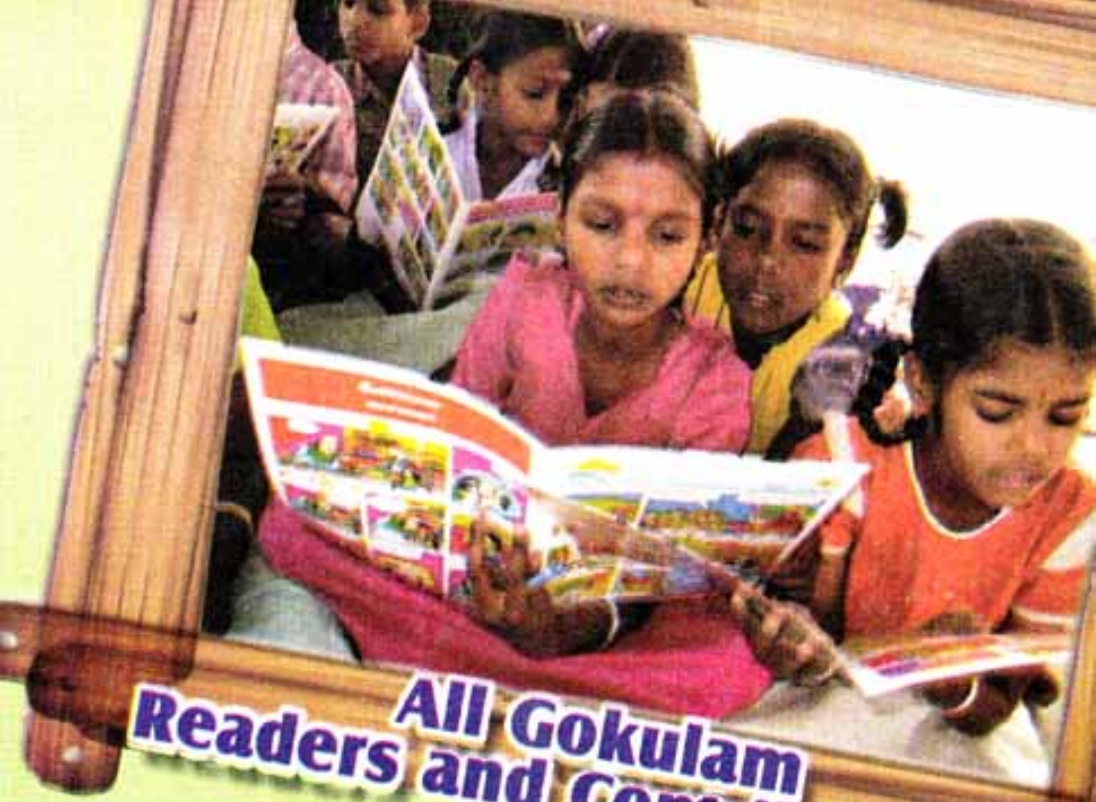
- R. Anandita, Std.IX, Anna Adarsh School, Mogappair (W), Chennai

MANY HAPPY RETURNS...

K. Kirtisagar Sharma celebrates his twelfth birthday on April 28, 2008.

We wish you a very very happy birthday and a prosperous future.

- Akka, Mom, Daddy, Chittappa and friends.



All Gokulam Readers and Contributors...

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be. Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues. Report funny happenings at school or home. Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address individually on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

★ The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

★ Please preserve your participation certificates. In case you don't receive the certificates which are mailed to you by Gokulam, keep a xerox copy of your contribution in your collection.

★ All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

★ Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the appropriate message and photographs **two months before the birthday.**

★ Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

NEVER EVER COPY!

Attention!

A meteorite, also known as shooting star or fireball, is a small piece of cosmic matter that enters into our atmosphere. The average weight of such an object is only a small fraction of an ounce, like the grain of rice. Some are bigger about the size and weight of a large yam (1 to 2 kilograms).

Thousands of such meteorites

UP ABOVE THE WORLD - II

fall to earth each year. One such to touch the surface of the earth is the Willamette Meteorite - a very special piece from up above!

Willamette meteorite, was found in Willamette Valley, Oregon. Talk of a well kept secret! It was known from ancient times to the Clackama tribe as *Tomanowos*. They believed it came as a representative of the 'Sky People' and had special powers. The rainwater collected in its basins was considered to be powerful, purifying, and healing.

In 1902, settler Ellis Hughes announced the discovery to the world. Weighing a little more than an African bull elephant at 15.5 tonnes, it is the largest Meteorite to be discovered in North America (Window 1). Unlike the Clackamas, Hughes couldn't keep the secret for long, for he had stolen the rock from the land owned by an Iron and Steel Company. It was hard and backbreaking work to dig up a 15 tonne rock and move it over 1500 meters. The company went to court and won the right to be the legal owner.

Soon afterwards, in 1905, it was sold to a private collector for $26,000. The owners donated it to the American Museum of Natural History in New York, where we can see it even today. The museum recognized the cultural heritage of the meteorite

WINDOW 1

LARGE METEORITES ON EARTH

The largest meteorite, weighing 70 tonnes, is embedded in the ground near Grootfontein in Southwest Africa. The second spot is claimed by Anighito, exhibited in the Hayden Planetarium, New York, was found by Admiral Peary in 1892 at Cape York in Greenland. It weighs over 34-tons.

RANI IYER

A Special METEORITE

to the tribe and allowed them to hold a private ceremony every year!

Scientists believe that Willamette meteorite is the iron core of a planet that was shattered in a stellar collision billions of years ago. The meteorite crashed into earth's surface thousands of years ago travelling, at a speed of more than 40,000 miles per hour.

Whatever scientists and the tribes say, a meteorite is one special rock!

BLUE MARBLE!

'Blue Marble' was the name given to a photograph of the earth as seen by the Apollo 17 crew in 1972.

- Chandarani Saste, New Panvel

WINDOW 2

Geological Survey of India is the custodian of all Indian meteorites. It maintains a meteorite gallery in the Indian Museum, Kolkata, for public display. International database on meteorites records 140 meteorites for India. Of these 129 are accepted meteorites and 4 are undocumented records. Others are considered dubious. There is only one impact structure in India. It is the Lonar crater, in Buldhana district, Maharashtra.

WINDOW 3

Scientists think that about 65 million years ago, several meteorites hit several areas of earth simultaneously. The impact was so huge that the meteorite vaporized leaving a large crater. At this time, several animals living on the earth were driven to extinction. As a result, dinosaurs all over the world, including Gujarat died, he added. Viri village in Anjar District, Gujarat, has several dinosaur fossils. Scientists have found traces of iridium, a metal not found on earth, indicating the correlation between meteorites and the extinction of dinosaurs.

Delightful Field Trip!

Our school conducts many programmes for all-round development of students, including trips and excursions to different places.

Recently, we visited Teenmurthi Bhavan, New Delhi. We were excited to see the childhood pictures of Jawaharlal Nehru. We also saw pictures of the Indian National Movement. We were delighted to see a model of the parliament building.

The rooms of Pandit Nehru including his office room, study room and the room where he died are being maintained as they were when he lived. The articles he used and books read by him have been displayed with care. The gifts given to Nehruji by different states and countries were displayed in a separate hall.

The Bhavan is situated in the middle of a vast rose garden, where there is a separate place for the three Jyotis - Jawahar Jyoti, Indira Jyoti and Rajiv Jyoti.

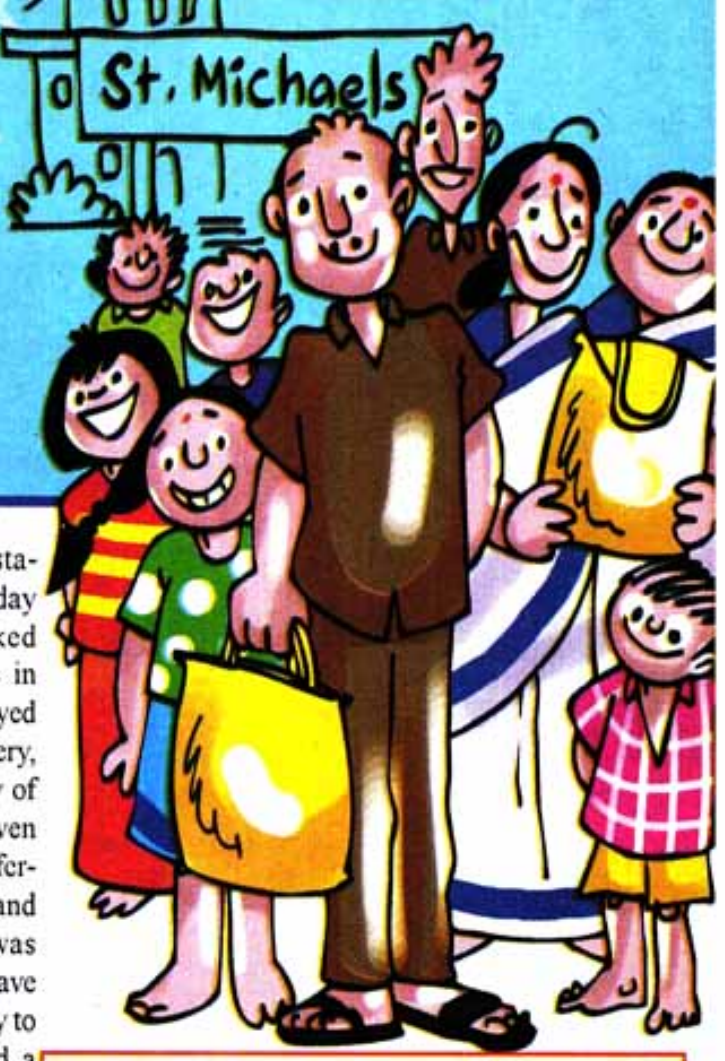
We also saw the Nehru planetarium near the Bhavan. Here we witnessed many thrilling pictures and scenes of the Universe and a movie giving information about the solar system and India's mission to the moon!

- S.Archana, Std.XI,
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sector -2,
R.K.Puram, New Delhi - 22

TRYST WITH NATURE

Every one likes to experience nature and I am so glad that I joined my school for the trek which was an unforgettable experience in Kodaikanal, one

School Events



of India's finest hill stations. It was a three-day trip where we walked around ten kilometers in the dense forest. I enjoyed the breath-taking greenery, and saw a huge variety of trees and fungi. We even spotted some bison, different species of birds and monkeys. The trek was very adventurous and gave a wonderful opportunity to enjoy Nature. We had a campfire in our hostel and had a great time. We learnt from the trek organizer how forests are being destroyed by selfish people and how we pollute our environment and slowly kill wildlife. We learnt that doing our small part in saving the earth - like using paper bags and avoiding plastic materials - can make a big difference.

- Sangeetha K.S.
Vidyodaya Matriculation Academy, Chennai

Out Reach Programme!

There was an Out Reach Programme in my school St.Michael's Academy on 24th November 2007, to help and entertain a few selected servants, our school ayahs and some orphanage children. We performed a small Christmas play for them. Some boys and girls performed a nice dance. The orphanage children also performed a song and dance programme for us. All the servants and ayahs were given 2 kg rice, 1 kg oil, 2 kg sugar and one saree each. All of them were also given a tasty lunch after the programme in our school. The programme was enjoyed by everybody. I felt very happy to participate in the dance and also to help the poor people.

- Kushi Suraj, Std II,
St.Michael's Academy, Chennai

DID YOU KNOW?

QUILLS to ball - points

The pen is a very old instrument. It was even used by the ancient Egyptians, thousands of years ago. Let us trace the history of the pen.

Before the advent of the printing era, books were hand written using quills. These quills were usually made of goose feathers. But these quills had to be sharpened frequently and a new split had to be made every now and then for the ink to run down.

Next came the 'dip-pen' with its steel nib. This nib had a much longer life than the quill. It had a hole at the top of the split, which holds a pool of ink.

But these quills and dip-pens could not hold much ink at a time. The 'fountain-pen' solved this problem. The ink could be inside the handle, usually in a rubber case to maintain the flow of ink to the nib.

Then came the ball point pen. When the ball rolls, it carries a thin film of ink from inside as you write. This is how the pen has evolved over the times.

- J.Vishnu, Std.IX,
Shiksha Kendra MHSS,
Vellore.

BIRTHDAY BASH

Rajashree Raman, celebrates her **ninth birthday** on the 19th of April, 2008. **Wishing her lots of joy, good luck and love, and may she enjoy her life to the fullest,** her dear sister,

- Jayashree.

Varsha B. celebrates her 13th Birthday on April 18th. **May God sprinkle showers of blessings on her.**

With love from **Mahit** and **Karshini.**

N. Samhith celebrates his seventh birthday on 9th April.

"Many more happy returns of the day, our dear child"

- Mother, Sister, Brother and Uncle.

Varsha celebrates her 14th birthday on 15 April. **Wishing her a very happy birthday.**

- Swagatika

K. Nithin celebrates his eleventh Birthday on 7th April.

Best Wishes from: **Dad (Kanagachalam Kumar), Mom (Punitha), Sisters Karthi, Nandhini, Kiruthiga, Deepa and Grandparents.**

PENPALS

Name: **Abhishek Nagaraj**
Age : 10
Address : 101/19, 22nd main, Janardhan Layout, Padmanabha Nagar, Bengalooru - 560 070.
Hobbies : Playing cricket, watching T.V., reading story books, playing computer games and chatting.

Name: **P.S. Akshaya**
Age : 12
Address : 14/19 Narayani Apartments, Sringeri Mutt Road, Chennai - 600 028.
Hobbies : Watching T.V., reading books, cycling, dancing, singing, drawing, playing, etc.

Name: **Shyam Lama**
Age : 16
Address : Milt Residential School, Old Vishnu Sadan, Simul Tala, Jamui, Bihar - 813 116.
Hobbies : Making friends, watching films, collecting letters and CDs, playing foot ball and cricket, chatting on internet.

Name: **Rushab. R.Bhandari**
Age : 14
Address : Opp.to Indian Bank, Ashok Circle, Ranebennur - 581 115.
Hobbies : Reading books, cycling, collecting proverbs, playing basket ball.

Name: **Manjunath.S.B**
Age : 16
Address : 3712, Wodeyar, HSE, Sainik School, Bijapur - 586 102
Hobbies : Reading, writing stories, football, swimming, making penpals.

Name: **N. Nasurdeen**
Age : 14
Address : 41 B/9, Kamaraj Nagar, Thennur, Trichy - 17.
Hobbies : Sports, chatting with friends, watching T.V.

Name: **P. Babjee**
Age : 13

Address : 4349, Maurya House, Sainik School, Korukonda Vizia nagaram, Andhra Pradesh - 535 214.

Hobbies : Collecting stamps, cycling, listening to music, playing football.

Name: **Anoop Kumar Mishra**

Age : 16

Address : Roll No.3962, Sainik School, Korukonda (Gupta House), Vizianagaram Dist, A.P. - 535 214.

Hobbies : Listening to music, playing, reading novels, surfing the net.

Name: **D. Ananth**

Age : 16

Address : C/o. C.A.Rao, HNo-635, A-Block, Near Tara Hotel, Kutadi, Sonari, Jamshedpur - 831 011.

Hobbies : Reading magazines, surfing the net, listening to songs of Jal, Strings, Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan etc, playing cricket and making new friends.

Name: **G. Siddarth**

Age : 9

Address : H-28, Mount View Apartments, Sathuvachari, Vellore - 632 009.

Hobbies : Chess, computer games, story books.

Name: **Sajida Sultana. N**

Age : 16

Address : No.115, IIIrd Street, Kumaran Colony, Vadapalani, Chennai - 600 026.

Hobbies : Reading novels, collecting Harry Potter merchandise, chatting on-line, reading Potter series and watching Potter movie series, making friends, playing games on computer, improving my creativity.

Name: **G. Monisha Gengashri**

Age : 12

Address : 8/1, Hudco Colony, Peelamedu, Coimbatore - 641 004.

Hobbies : Watching my fishes, reading children's magazines.

Name: **G. Divya**

Age : 15

Address : No.90, Coles Road, Frazer Town, Bengalooru - 5.

Hobbies : Reading books, playing games, watching T.V, chatting, singing, collecting old coins.

Name: **S. Anantha Lakshmi**

Age : 13

Address : 151, Dharmaraja Koil Street, Bengalooru - 560 001.

Hobbies : Dancing, chatting, drawing, painting and reading.

Name: **L. Sushmitha**

Age : 13

Address : C-202, Krishivihar, 7-1-58. Ameerpet, Hyderabad - 500 016.

Hobbies : Playing badminton, athletics, reading novels, singing, cycling, working on projects and decorating my room.

How to Avoid

Dear Grandma,

I'm being teased by everyone in my class. Please provide a solution to this problem.

- Nivedha, Chennai

Dear Nivedha,

Ask yourself why they tease you. If you are giving them any reasonable cause for teasing try to eliminate that cause. On the other hand if they are teasing you over nothing, ignore them. Don't react. After some days they will be bored and give up teasing.

• • •

Can you please suggest some good books to read?

- Meenakshi, Mumbai

Dear Meenakshi,

I love reading and I'm happy to find someone equally interested. Since you are in standard nine, you must be in your teens. I'm sure you are reading modern mystery and adventure novels like Nancy Drew; Hardy Boys; Famous Five and so on. However, I would suggest that you also read classics in between, like Treasure Island, Tale of Two Cities, Merchant of Venice, Midshipman Easy, Count of Montecristo etc. Retold versions are available if you find the original works too difficult to read and understand. This will induce you to read other works of the same authors, in their original versions later on when you are a little older.

• • •

I'm good in english prose and poetry but not in grammar. Please advise me in the matter.

- K.R.B.Rohini, Chennai

Dear Rohini,

The best way to master a language is not by studying grammar but by reading and listening to the language being spoken. Tune to B.B.C and listen to the news or other features for atleast fifteen minutes every day. Read aloud as many books of your choice as you can, apart from text

books. Put down in writing the important news you have heard or a gist of what you have read. It need not exceed a page in a note book but it should be a regular exercise. Show it to some one who is good at english and get it corrected. Rewrite the page. After a month or two turn to grammar. You'll find it much easier to understand.

• • •

Silly Mistakes?

I'm good at studies, but I lose a good rank because of poor english passage reading. How am I to improve?

- C.S.M.Vevetha, Ranipet

Dear Vevetha,

See the answer I've given to Rohini and follow that advice

• • •

I've sent many of my drawings to Gokulam, but none of them were published. Are they so bad?

- Naresh Rengaswamy, Madurai

Dear Naresh,

I can't really answer your question because I'm not involved in selection of materials to be published in ***Gokulam****. However I can say this much: Every entry is given careful and sympathetic scrutiny by the editorial staff. There are sooo (!) many entries that even if your drawing is selected it takes time to get published. Since all the pages of* ***Gokulam*** *are in colour, it's better you send colour paintings instead of black and white drawings. One more suggestion: Try you hand in writing also besides drawing and painting. Never lose hope or be discouraged.*

• • •

I have a separate room and study table but even if I sit for long hours nothing goes into my head. Please

help!

- Ramya Joseph, Mumbai

I study for two hours and suddenly my mind wants to watch TV! How can I get rid of this bad habit? I want to score high marks. Please advise.

- A. Vandana, New Delhi

Dear Ramya and Vandana,

Both of you seem to have the same problem. Lack of concentration, after studying for a couple of hours. My advise is relax for 15 to 20 minutes and get back to your studies. During those twenty minutes you can play, exercise, watch TV or indulge in a favourite hobby. But be sure you don't exceed the time allotted for such relaxation. Go back to your study desk. You'll find you absorb your lessons better.

• • •

You are answering questions pertaining to many fields of activity. What is your qualification?

- J.Vishnu, Vellore

Dear Vishnu,

I hold a bachelor's degree in Pharmaceutical science. But my best qualification is age and experience.

• • •

I practise my maths very hard and work on many sums. However, I commit silly mistakes while writing exams. What am I to do?

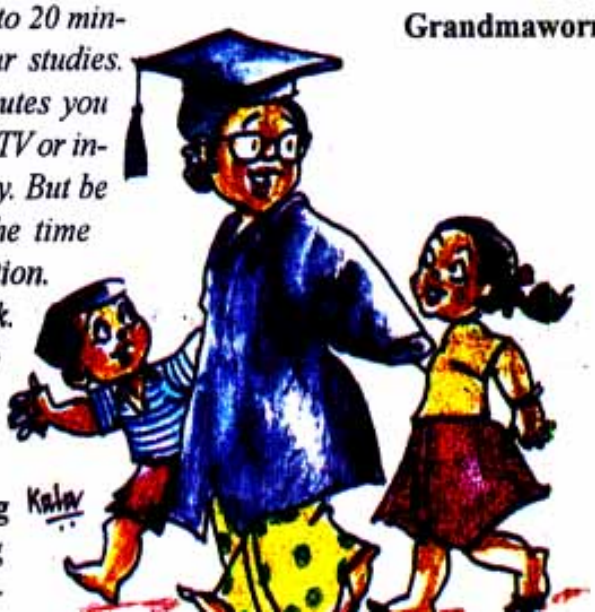
- Bhanumathi, Chennai

Dear Bhanumathi,

If you know the mathematical steps you'll surely be able to finish the paper ahead of time. So, don't speed up your answers. Be calm and collected. After you have completed the paper, revise. You'll be able to spot and correct any silly mistake committed.

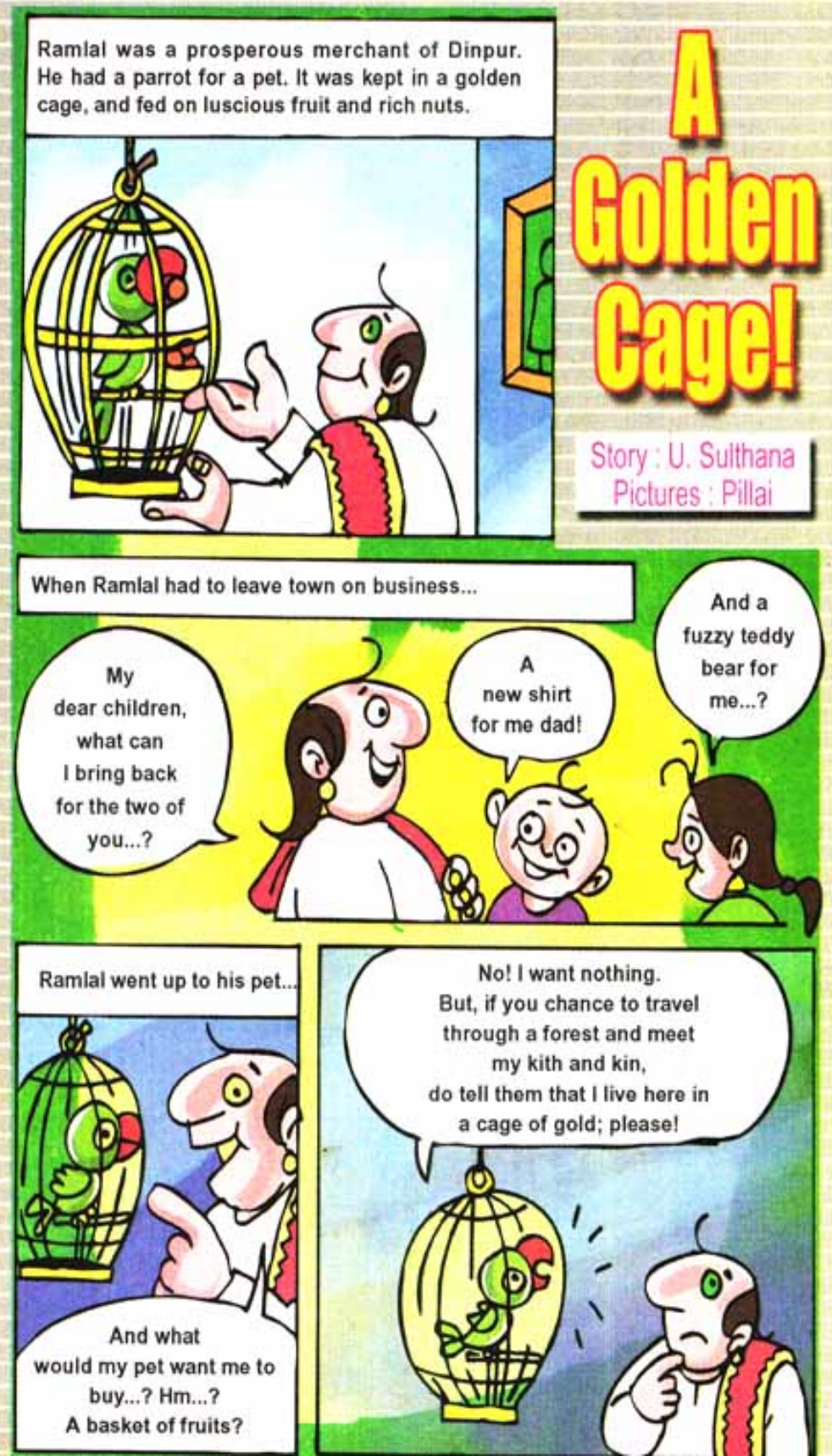
Love,

Grandmaworm



A Golden Cage!

Story : U. Sulthana
Pictures : Pillai

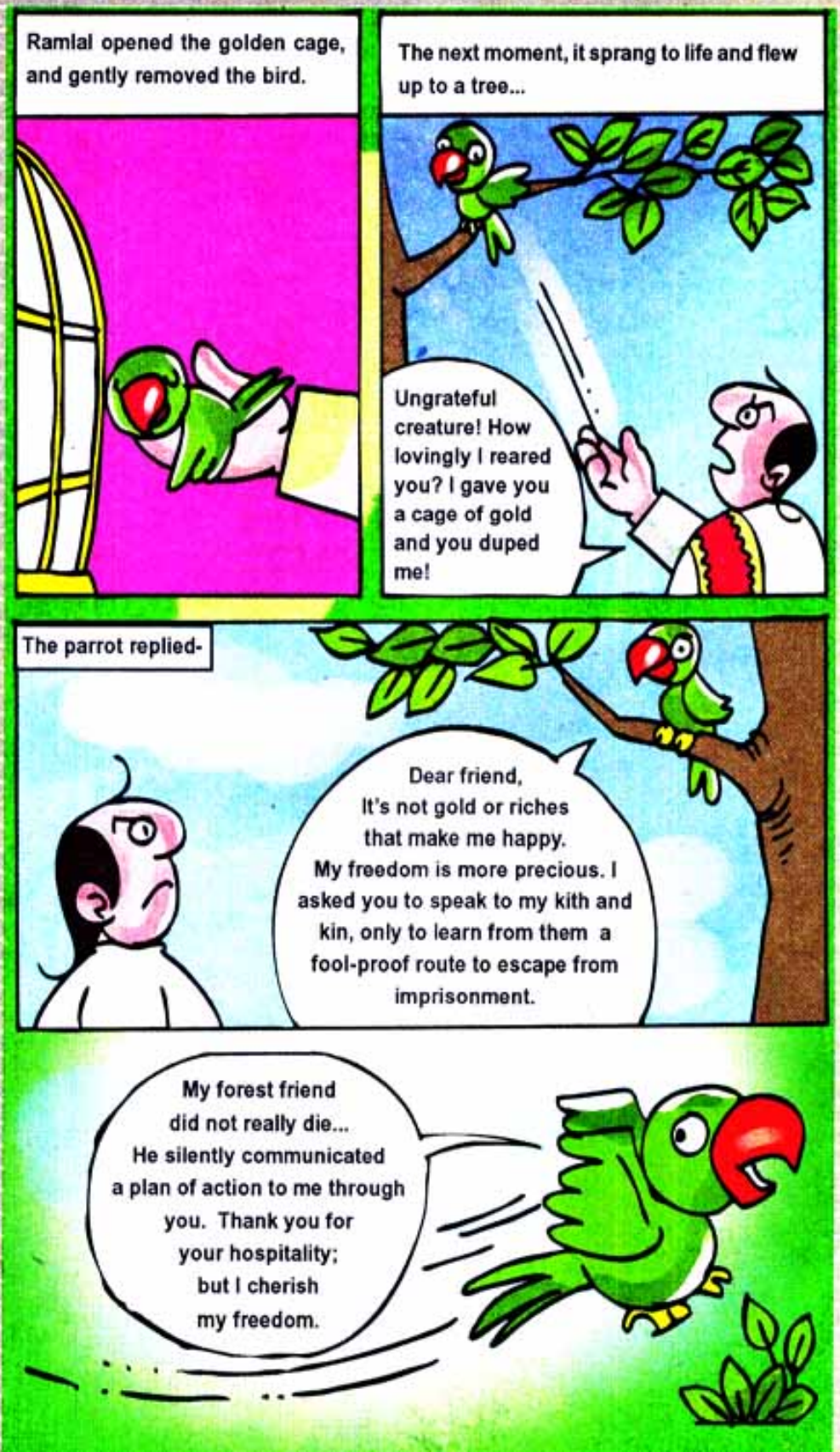


Ramlal agreed and set off. As he travelled through a forest, he saw a flock of parrots fly past...

That instant, one of the parrots flopped down with a cry of pain...

Ramlal continued on his journey and returned home rich...

Ramlal later walked up to his parrot's cage and narrated his experience.


Ramlal opened the golden cage, and gently removed the bird.
The next moment, it sprang to life and flew up to a tree...
Ungrateful creature! How lovingly I reared you? I gave you a cage of gold and you duped me!
The parrot replied-
Dear friend, It's not gold or riches that make me happy. My freedom is more precious. I asked you to speak to my kith and kin, only to learn from them a fool-proof route to escape from imprisonment.
My forest friend did not really die... He silently communicated a plan of action to me through you. Thank you for your hospitality; but I cherish my freedom.

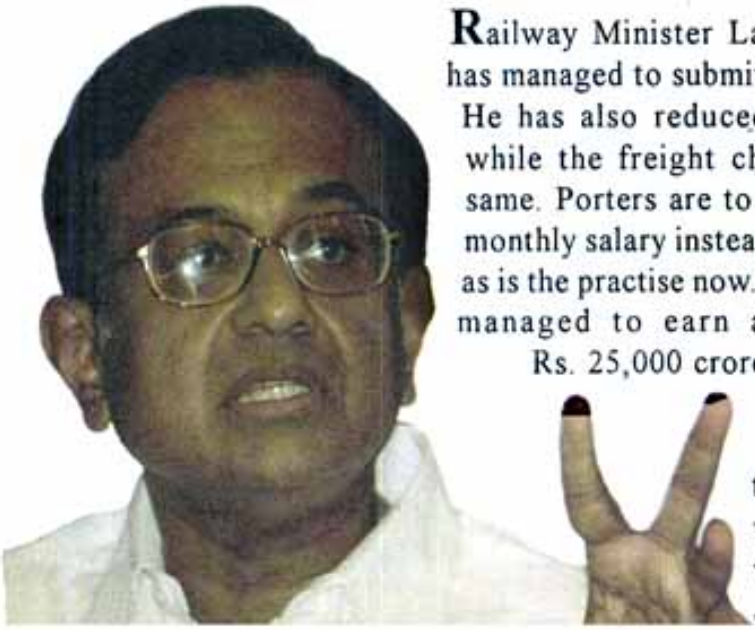
The prices of petrol and diesel were increased by Rs.2 and Rs.1 per litre, several days before the budget was tabled in the Parliament. The government prides itself saying that the price of kerosene required by the poor has not been touched. However all round price escalation owing to increase in transport costs will certainly affect the poor.

• • •

The budget for 2008-09 is generous with many reliefs to the tax payer and has earned the name 'election budget'. Service tax the 'Kamadhenu' for revenue, has been extended to new areas. The talk of the town is ofcourse the bank loan waiver for farmers, amounting to a staggering Rs. 60,000 crores! There is no mention in the budget as to how this amount is to be compensated to the banks. Naturally, be it now or later, it is the tax payer who will have to bear the burden. The fiscal deficit in the budget is Rs.1,33,000 crores! It means that the government is going to spend, this much more than its revenue collected by way of taxes! This will cause inflation and push up the prices more than ever!

• • •

Musharraf Refuses



Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, has managed to submit a surplus budget. He has also reduced passenger fares while the freight charges remain the same. Porters are to be employed on a monthly salary instead of being licensed as is the practise now. The railways have managed to earn a cash profit of Rs. 25,000 crores in 2007-08. The rosy picture is attributed to the fact that many operations in the railways have been

• Election Budget!

privatised after Lalu took over. Hopefully he will also concentrate on an accident-free railway network.

• • •

Election to the National Assembly held in Pakistan was peaceful. The P.M.L Party supporting Musharraf got a drubbing. It won only 38 seats. Late Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party lead with 87 seats while Nawaz Sharif's P.M.L. (N) captured 66. Though no party has a clear majority, Zardari, husband of Benazir and Nawaz Sharif are coming together to form a coalition government. However Musharraf continues to be the President and refuses to step down in spite of the dismal show by his own party!

• • •

• Rosy picture!

to Quit!

• Coming together...

• ... for a coalition

Closely following the defeats in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the assembly election results in Tripura, Nagaland and Megalaya came as a big disappointment for the Congress. The Left Front swept the polls in Tripura and formed a government. In Nagaland the Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN) has captured power. As for Megalaya, though the Congress did not get an absolute majority, it has been asked to form a government as the single largest party. It has to prove its majority in the floor of the assembly as directed by the governor.

• • •

Dhoni has done it again! India's 2-0 victory over Australia in the tri series is a wild dream come true! India won two consecutive matches in the one dayer three match finals. Team work was responsible for this amazing victory. Sachin's 117 in the first match and 91 in the second helped a lot. A touch of anger on being ill-treated, might also have played its part to build up a sense of determination in the minds of the Indian players.

Letter Box

✉ I started reading Gokulam in 2003. This is one of my favourite books. I appreciate the Gokulam founders. This magazine is found interesting by all the children. I would also like you to publish some posters of Barbie, Mickey Mouse and Power Rangers.

- A Bookworm, C.Bertilla, AECS, Anupuram

✉ I love Gokulam Magazine because it is interesting and a place where children have an opportunity to display their talents. I feel proud to be a big fan of Gokulam.

- T. Karshini, Std.VIII, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ashok Nagar, Chennai

✉ The thing I like best about your magazine is its ability to cater to young and old alike. I am fifteen and am captured by Gokulam. I like the snippets you always publish about Harry Potter and the wise solutions offered by grandmaworm to our problems. I subscribe to Gokulam and after I am finished with it, a girl from the neighbouring house takes it from me. She is only in U.K.G and yet is thrilled by Gokulam! Gokulam is very democratic too! It gives space for readers' views and creativity.

- R. Athreya, Std.X, D.A.V. Sr.Sec.School, Chennai - 92

✉ First I thank the editor for publishing my contribution. I was very happy to see it in the best magazine for children, Gokulam.

- N.Swetha Priya, Std.VI, The Hindu Senior Secondary School, Chennai - 5

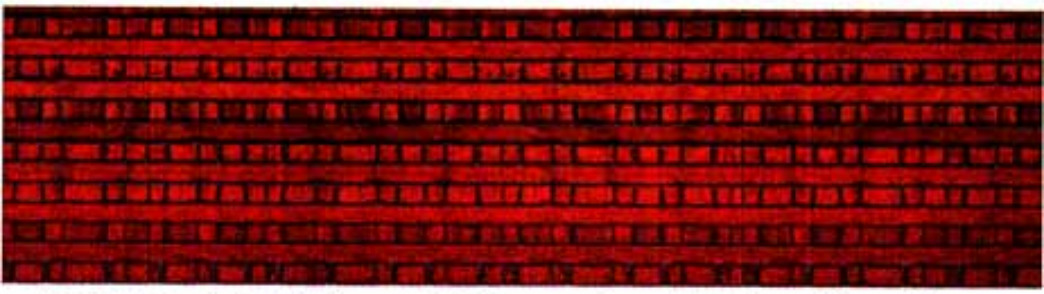
✉ I am one among the million fans of this great magazine. I love and like all the items of the book. My brother and I eagerly wait for this book every month and fight over the book to read it first!

- P.Aswathi, Age 15, SHCAI Hr.Sec.School, Villupuram

✉ Gokulam is an awesome magazine. It

GOKULAM

has helped me improve my English. My father was a great fan of Gokulam (Tamil). He used to buy it for 30 paise! I always patiently



await the arrival of this wonderful magazine. I would be happy if you could introduce more contests.

- L.Sushmitha, Std.VIII, NASR School (Girls), Khairtabad, Hyderabad

✉ I like Gokulam very much. It improves my knowledge. I have been reading it for the past 2½ years. I like grandmaworm, stories, Hello doctor and jokes. I liked the mini gokulam in February issue. It will be nice if you publish more facts about Harry Potter.

T. Sathya Naarayanan,Std.IV, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Educare, Chennai

✉ My parents were very happy to know that my contribution was published in the January issue. They also encouraged me to write more. My school is proud of me too. Thank you!

- S.Yuvan, V.V. Vani Vidyalaya, Coimbatore.

✉ I introduced Gokulam to my best friend Sentamil Selvan and he loved it too. Last February my friend and I planned and started a Gokulam Fan Club! Many of my friends joined in it. We read Gokulam at lunch break and we enjoy everything in it. Some of my friends come from villages. Gokulam is not available there. So, I used to buy Gokulam for them. At one of our school assemblies, we did a small skit based on the story 'Victory and Failure' which appeared in October 2007 Gokulam. Many of our teachers appreciated it. It is great fun to have a Gokulam fan club.

- J.Vishnu, Std.IX, Shiksha Kendra M.H.S.S, Vellore

✉ I've been reading Gokulam for a few years, and it really helps me learn more about Indian culture. It would be nice if you could publish it more often. It would be really cool if you could add celebrity and T.V. news too.

- K.Thushara, Std.VI, Dalat International School, Penang, Malaysia

FAN CLUB!

SALAMANDERS

Salamanders are amphibians, like frogs and toads. They are found throughout the northern hemisphere and South America.

Some live on water and some on land. A narrow body, long tail, short legs, webbed feet - this is the Salamander's appearance.

A Chinese Giant Salamander is 114 cm long and weighs upto 30 kgs. A Pygmy Salamander is as long as 3.7cm. Giant Salamanders live for over 50 years.

A powerful tail helps to propel through the water. Some lay eggs on water, some on land, some produce poisonous saliva from glands in their skin. This puts off predators. Salamanders feed on worms and insects.

- S.P.Keerthika,
Std.V,
Chinmaya
Vidyalaya,
Hyderabad-16

Summers - Then and Now!

The summers twenty five years ago were very different. A quarter century ago, children played a lot in the fresh air and today there is no scope for it as the children of my age are glued to the television or the internet.

Latest inventions like the Play Station and other video games are the reasons why we do not play outside. The boys, in the past, spent long hours playing cricket, marbles and other outdoor games and activities but today all of them are on to their latest game on the internet or watching cricket on TV!

Children twenty five years ago, rented cycles for atleast half an hour everyday and cycled with their friends but today even though every kid has his or her own cycle, we do not understand the importance and benefits of cycling.

My mother, during her holidays, used to borrow books from the library and read them and exchanged her books with her friends so that she got to read books of different kinds. She also went out to play, which helped her mingle with people and children of different age groups. They also went and sat down in the parks and spent some time on the swings and see-saws there, which I don't think many of us do today.

So let's take the example of our elders and spend our summer usefully. Even if you are browsing the net, do it for useful things and find out something new everyday. Even if you are watching television, do watch something which is not only fun but also informative and useful.

We can also sit at home and peacefully read books, novels or classics by famous authors by which we will improve our vocabulary and I assure you that we will not be bored either. We could also attend a creative summer camp for arts and crafts and also allot about half an hour to study some subject or do some maths.

Let's spend our summer well!

- Shruti Balaji, Std. VII, Oakridge International School, Hyderabad

Happy Holidays!

Billu

Story, Pictures: PILLAI

MILKA

WONDER CAKE

IN SIX DELICIOUS FLAVOURS

BSA LADYBIRD

ICE-CREAM

library | tution | dance class | coffee shop

3:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 5:00 PM | 6:00 PM | 7:00

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